



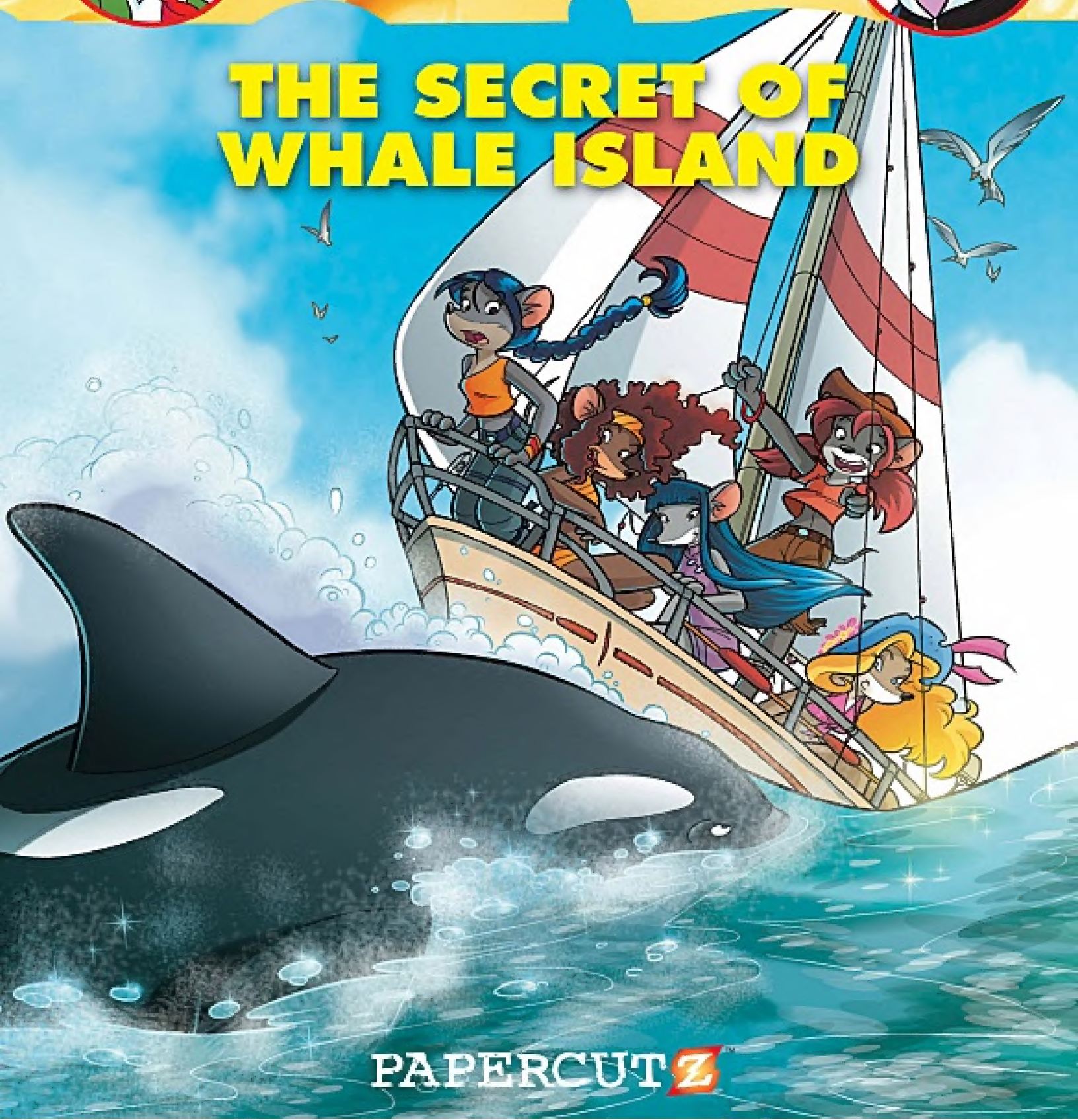
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Thea Stilton



# THE SECRET OF WHALE ISLAND



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# Thea Stilton

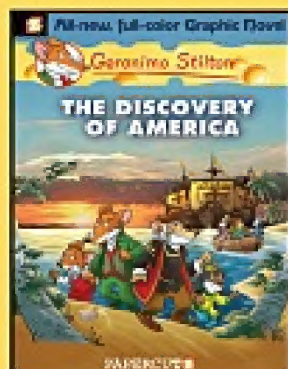


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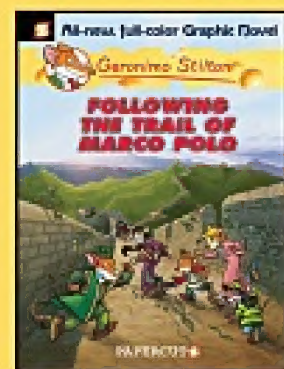
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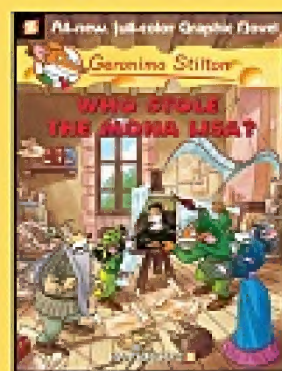
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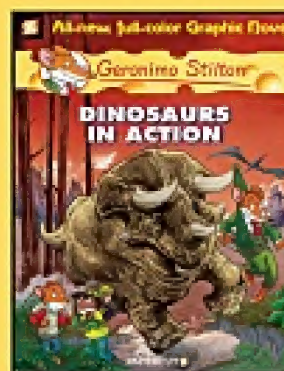
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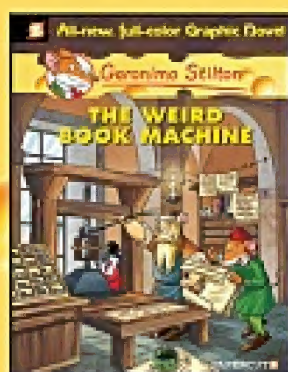
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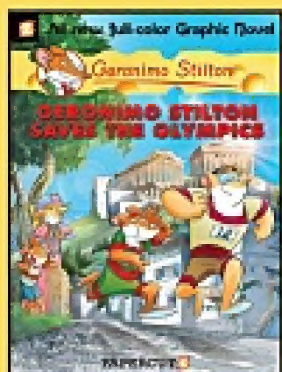
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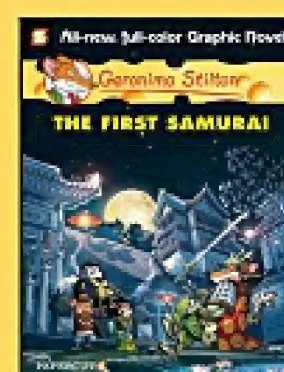
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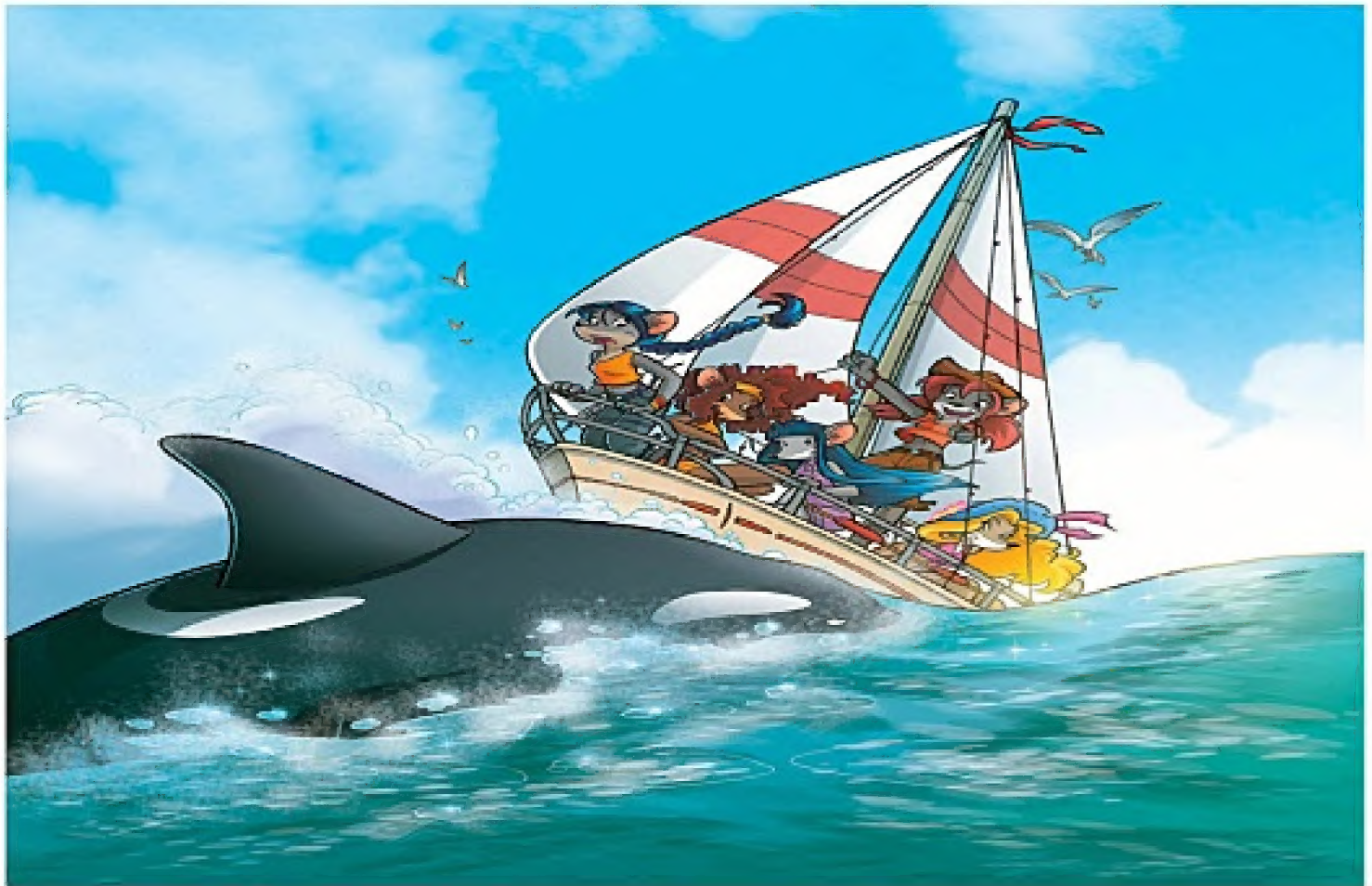
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# Thea Stilton

## THE SECRET OF WHALE ISLAND

By Thea Stilton



PAPERCUT  <sup>TM</sup>



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TO THE NORTH OF  
MOUSE ISLAND IS  
*Whale Island!*



WHERE THE ANCIENT  
AND PRESTIGIOUS  
**MOUSEFORD  
ACADEMY**  
CAN BE FOUND!



A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR  
IS ABOUT TO BEGIN AT  
THE ACADEMY...





ACCORDING TO TRADITION, CLASSES BEGIN AT THE SAME TIME AS THE WHALES ARRIVE IN THE SEAS AROUND THE ISLAND...

BUT WHEN WILL THEY GET HERE, GRANDPA?

YOU'LL SEE THEM IN A FEW DAYS, MARY! THEY'RE VERY PUNCTUAL...

UNLESS THAT MYSTERIOUS ORCA HAS MADE THEM CHANGE THEIR ROUTE!

MEANWHILE, IN THE STUDY OF OCTAVIUS DE MOUSUS, MOUSEFORD'S HEADMASTER...

CALAMITOUS CATS AND SASSAFRAS RATS! ARE YOU SERIOUS, THEA? YOU CAN'T MISS THE START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR! THE BIG DANCE WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU!

CALM DOWN! I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO GET THERE IN TIME FOR THE DANCE, I PROMISE! SO... WHAT'RE THE THEA SISTERS UP TO?

THEY'RE BUSY ORGANIZING THE PARTY! YOU KNOW THEY'VE GOT A WEAKNESS FOR IMPOSSIBLE MISSIONS... AND I'M RELYING ON THEM! WELL DONE! THEN YOU CAN REST EASY!

I'D DO THAT IF I COULD, THEA, BUT EVERY YEAR SOMETHING **NEW** GOES WRONG!

EVERYTHING'LL BE FINE, YOU'LL SEE!

ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN! DO YOU REMEMBER SARDINIA SQUID? DINIA? SHE GOT A SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY AT MOUSEFORD!

"SHE DID IT! SHE'LL BE THE FIRST WHALE ISLAND RESIDENT TO STUDY AT THE ACADEMY!"

MY BABY! ~SNIFF!~



DON'T CRY,  
MOM! THE  
ACADEMY'S  
NEARBY...

I'M SO  
PROUD OF YOU!  
~SNIFF SNIFF!~

CONGRATS,  
BIG SIS!

OH, HOW NICE OF YOU!  
THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL,  
MARY!

YOU KNOW...  
ONE DAY I  
WANT TO  
GO TO THE  
ACADEMY  
LIKE YOU!

YOU'LL  
DO IT,  
I'M SURE!  
~SMACK!~

THE WHOLE TOWN'S DROPPING  
BY TO CONGRATULATE DINA!  
EVERYONE'S COMING TO WISH HER  
GOODBYE, OVERWHELMING HER WITH  
COMPLIMENTS AND PRESENTS...

HURRAY FOR  
DINA! YIPPEE!

THEY'RE  
ALL HERE...  
EXCEPT  
LEOPOLD!

COMING THROUGH!  
EXCUSE ME! MAKE  
WAY FOR THE  
DANCE DRESS!

OOOH!

AN ENCHANTING  
DRESS!

IT'S  
AMAZING!

WHO'S YOUR DATE?

RIGHT, WHO? DINA'D HOPED  
SHE'D BE ABLE TO DANCE WITH  
LEOPOLD... BUT PERHAPS  
IT WASN'T TO BE!



GETTING A DATE FOR THE  
MOUSEFORD BIG DANCE  
WAS A PROBLEM FOR  
MANY STUDENTS...

PRETTYPLEASE  
PRETTYPLEASE,  
HIDE ME,  
PAM!

HEY, WHAT'S  
GOTTEN INTO  
YOU?!

WELCOME

...BUT  
ESPECIALLY  
FOR COLETTE!

THOSE THREE INVITED ME TO  
THE DANCE AND I HAVE  
NOT DECIDED YET!

ALL  
THREE?

NO ONE'S  
ASKED ME YET!

VIOLET'S PROBLEMS,  
HOWEVER, WERE  
THE FLORAL  
DECORATIONS...

MIGHT THESE  
BE ENOUGH,  
VIOLET?

~SIGH~ I'D SAY  
THERE CAN NEVER BE  
TOO MANY!

HMM... YET I  
FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S  
STILL MISSING!

OF COURSE, SOMETHING'S  
MISSING! *THE STUDENTS!*  
WE HAVE TO GO TO  
THE PORT TO PICK UP  
THE NEWCOMERS,  
REMEMBER?!

PULVER-  
IZED  
PISTONS!

THIS IS A JOB FOR MY  
ATV! I KNOW A COUPLE  
OF SHORTCUTS THAT  
WILL GET US THERE IN A  
FLASH! IT'LL BE A PIECE  
OF CAKE!

SURE  
ENOUGH...

THE SAND...  
IT'LL GET MY  
HAIR ALL  
TANGLED!

YEAH, BUT THIS WAY  
WE'LL GET THERE IN  
HALF THE TIME! ONE  
LAST CURVE AND  
WE'LL BE...

CLUNK  
CLW CLUNK  
TH THUMP

...AT THE  
PORT!

THERE'S THE HYDROFOIL!  
JUST IN TIME!

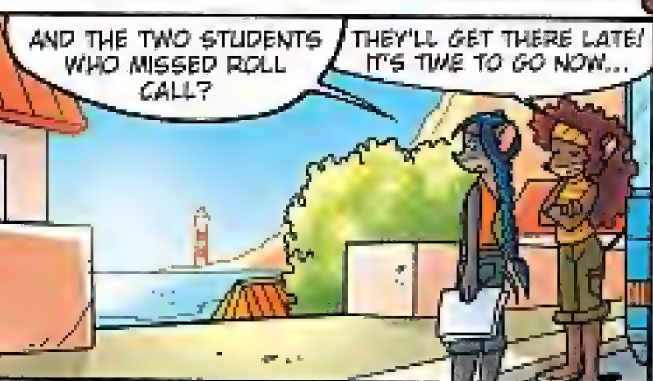
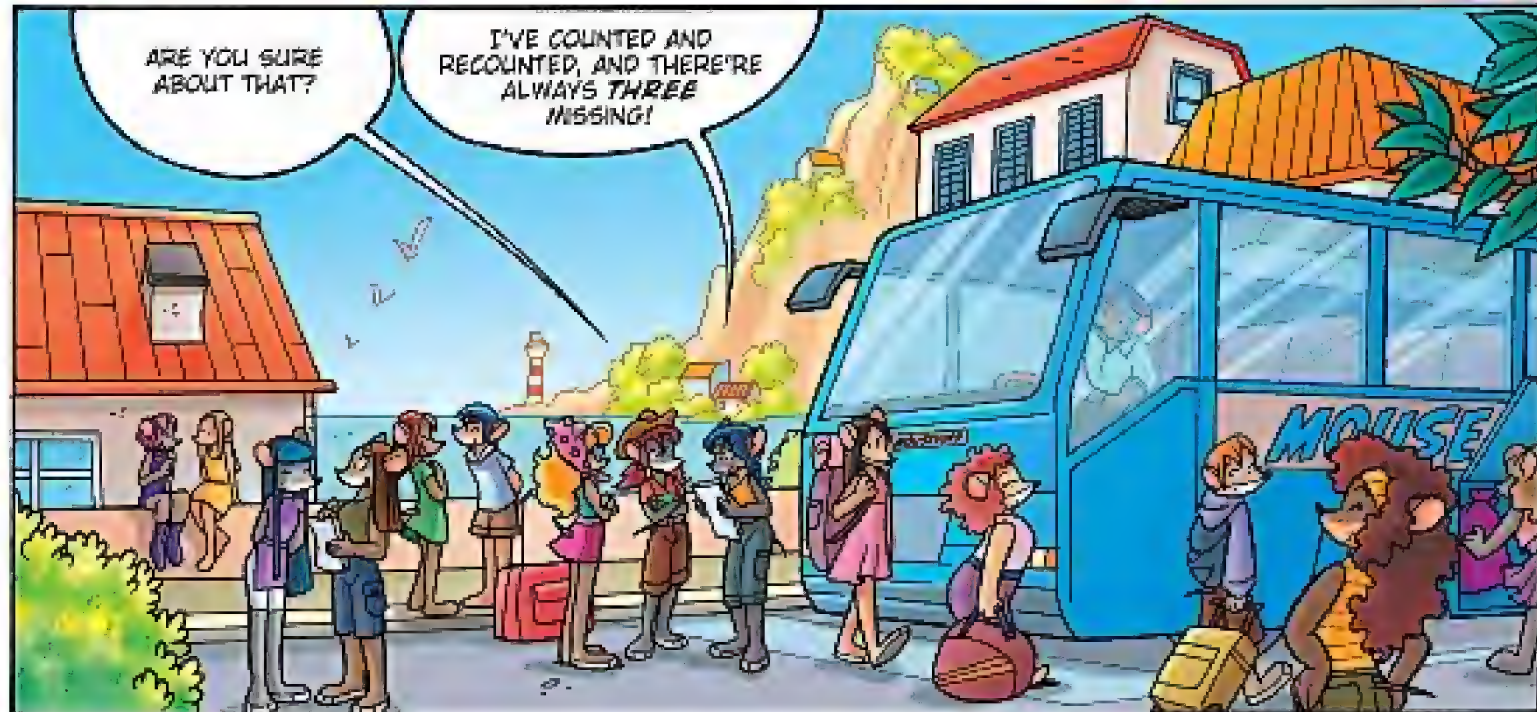
WHAT TIME  
IS THE HYDROFOIL  
ARRIVING AT NEW  
MOUSE CITY?  
**WE'RE SUPER LATE!**

CONGRATULATE ME, FRIENDS!  
I SHREDDED THE TRAIL'S  
SPEED RECORDS!













HE WENT OUT TO S-SEA?  
BUT THEY SAY THERE'S  
A GIGANTIC ORCA  
AROUND THE  
ISLAND!

THAT'S  
WHAT WE  
TOLD HIM...  
BUT YOU  
KNOW HOW  
STUBBORN  
HE IS!



THAT ORCA IS BIG TROUBLE!  
EVER SINCE IT GOT HERE,  
THE FISH HAVE  
DISAPPEARED!

THAT ORCA  
MUST HAVE A  
BAD TEMPER!



THE ORCA *ISN'T*  
**DANGEROUS** THE  
WAY THEY SAY...

DON'T WORRY,  
DINA!

A FEW  
DAYS AGO WE  
ENCOUNTERED  
IT OUR-  
SELVES!



"WE'D GONE OUT ON  
THE SAILBOAT. THE SEA  
WAS CALM AND IT WAS A  
BEAUTIFUL DAY!



"WHEN SUDDENLY...

HEY  
LOOK!

"...A FIN WAS  
UNMISTAKABLY HEADED  
STRAIGHT AT US!"



TELL ME THAT'S *NOT*  
WHAT IT LOOKS  
LIKE, VI!

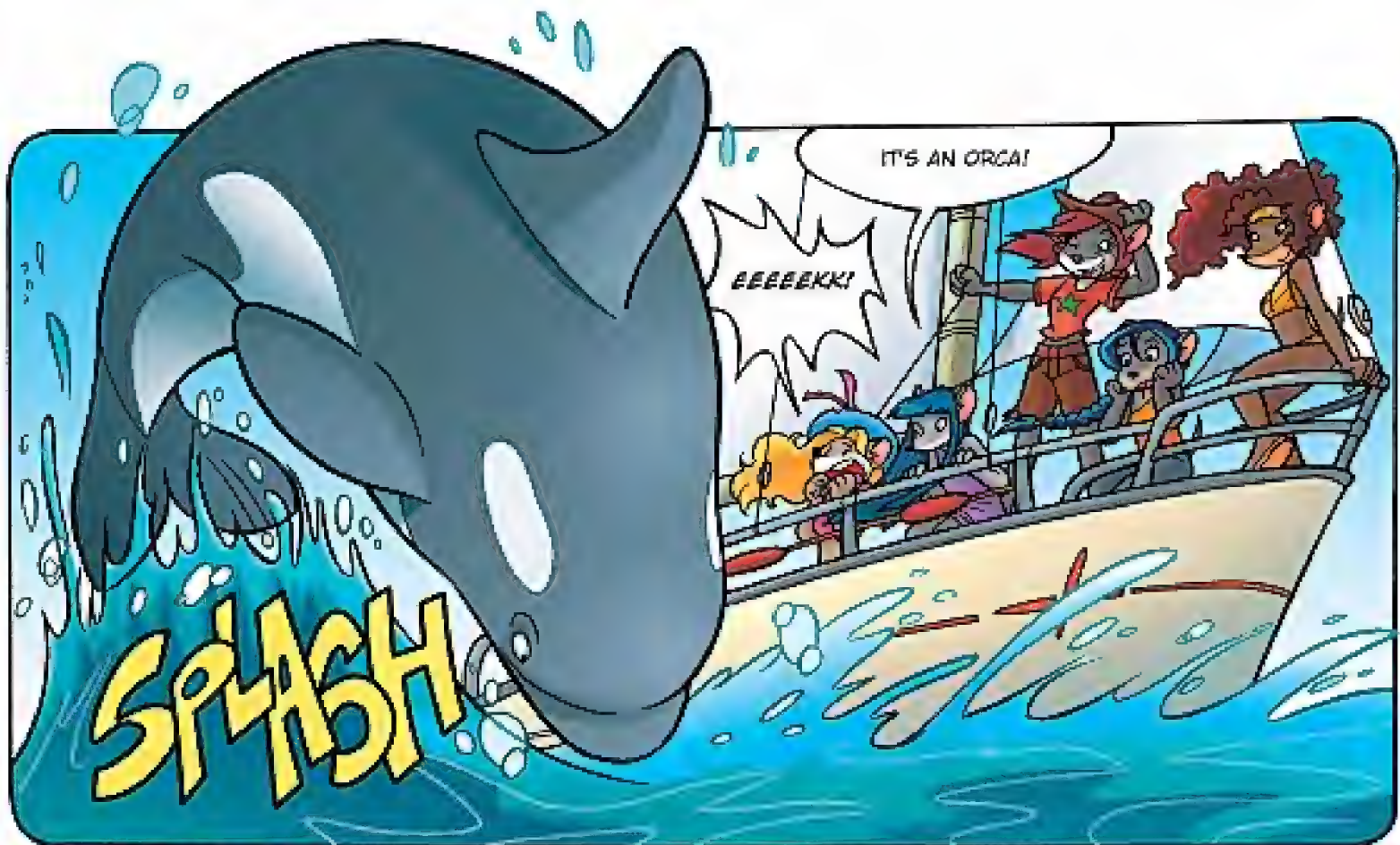
WHAT DOES IT  
LOOK LIKE TO  
YOU?

WELL, THEN  
IT'S *NOT* WHAT  
IT LOOKS LIKE!

A-AN  
**ENORMOUS**  
SHARK!

DOES  
THIS  
SEEM  
LIKE THE  
RIGHT  
TIME FOR  
RIDDLES?  
WHAT...  
WHAT...  
WHAT  
IS IT?







THE MARINE BIOLOGY LAB IS THE UNDISPUTED REALM OF PROFESSOR IAN VAN KRAKEN.

I HOPE THE PROFESSOR'LL HAVE A DEFINITE PLAN IN MIND!

BUT TO ALL APPEARANCES, THE PROFESSOR HAS SOMETHING ELSE TO THINK ABOUT!

...LET'S JUST TAKE A LOOK...  
INSERT OBJECT A1 INTO  
SUPPORT Y23...

~GASP!~ BUT--  
BUT WHAT HAPPENED  
IN HERE?

HEY, THERE! ISN'T THIS WONDERFUL?  
THIS IS THE **NEWEST EQUIPMENT**,  
COURTESY OF DE VISSEN, INC.!

?!

WHAT BRINGS  
YOU OVER HERE,  
NICKY?

THE CEREMONY,  
PROFESSOR!  
THERE'S NOT MUCH  
TIME LEFT!

THE CEREMONY? OH,  
**THE CEREMONY**--BUT,  
OF COURSE! I WAS JUST  
WORKING ON IT!

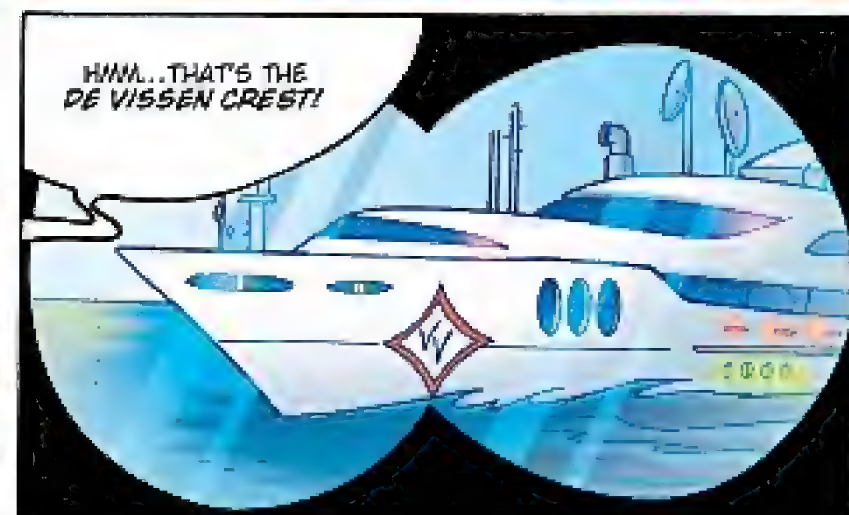
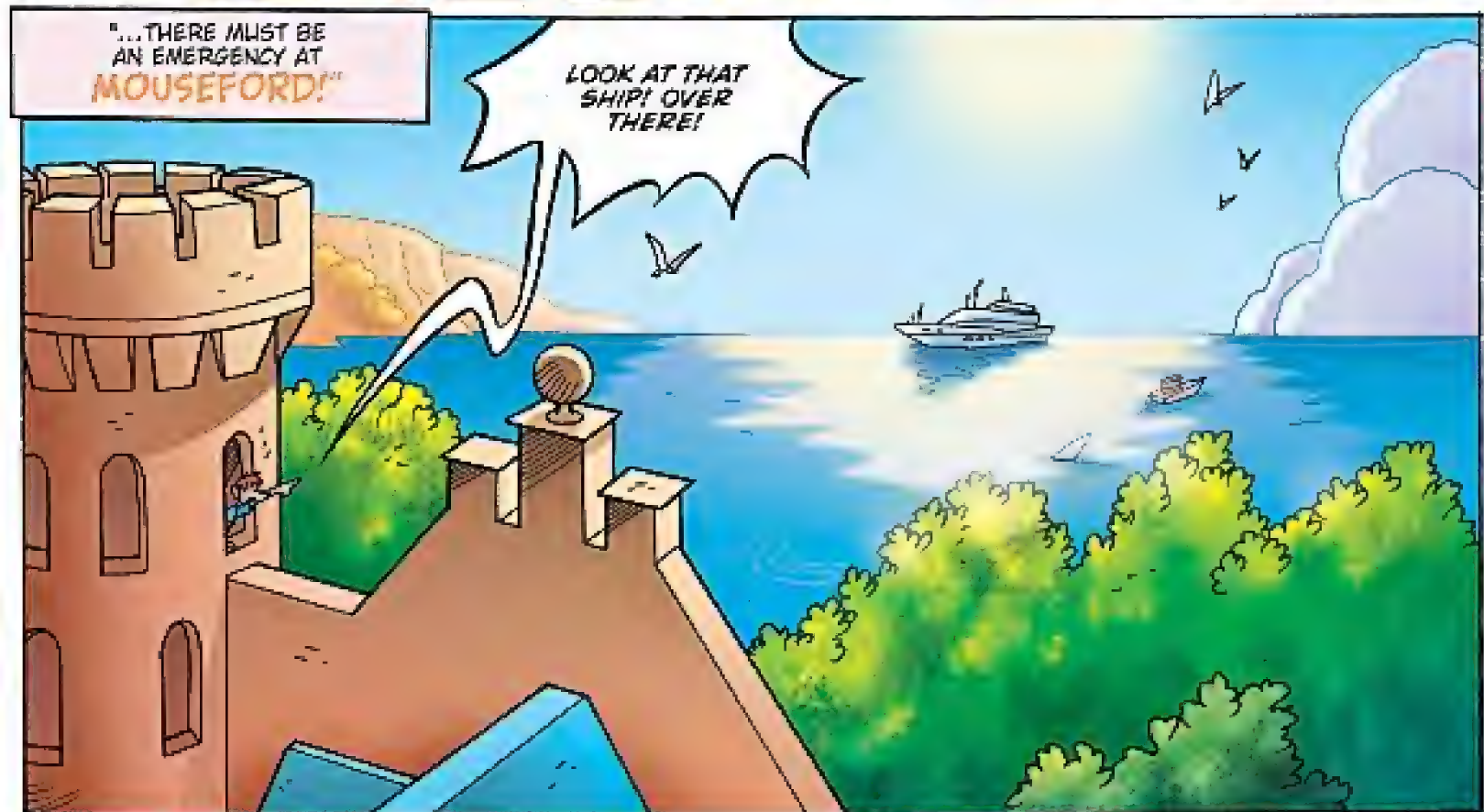
RIGHT...  
BEFORE THE  
NEW "TOYS"  
ARRIVED!

I REMEMBER THERE WAS A  
PROBLEM WITH THE WHALES'  
ROUTE! I WAS ABOUT TO  
GO OUT INTO THE  
SEA IN THE  
BATHYSCAPHE  
WHEN...

WAP

...WHEN  
THE TRUCK  
WITH THE  
BOXES OF  
EQUIPMENT  
CAME!







IN A FLASH, THE NEWS MAKES  
THE ROUNDS AT MOUSEFORD...

**FUP FUP FUP**

WHO ARE  
THE DE  
VISSENS?

WHERE'VE YOU  
BEEN LIVING, PAULI?  
VISSIA DE  
VISSSEN IS A  
REAL CELEBRITY!

**FUP FUP FUP**

SHE'S THE  
QUEEN OF  
COSMETICS!  
THE EMPRESS  
OF FOUNDATION!  
SHE'S A REAL  
LEGEND!

SHE'S FAMOUS AND INVOLVED  
WITH BEAUTY! FOR COLETTE,  
THAT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE  
HER A REAL LEGEND!

YOU'RE SO WRONG!  
BESIDES, VISSIA DOESN'T  
ONLY THINK ABOUT  
BUSINESS!

DID YOU KNOW SHE'S  
PRESIDENT OF THE CSE,  
THE CLUB TO SAVE  
THE ENVIRON-  
MENT?

**FUP FUP FUP**

"ALL IN ALL, VISSIA DE  
VISSSEN IS REALLY  
FIRST-RATE!"



THERE  
SHE IS!

RAT-TASTIC!

AND WHO  
ARE THEY?

THOSE  
ARE HER  
KIDS!  
VANILLA  
AND VIC!

THEY'RE  
GOING TO  
SCHOOL  
HERE WITH  
US?





WELCOME TO MOUSEFORD, MS. DE VISSSEN! IT'S AN HONOR TO HAVE YOU AS A GUEST AT OUR SCHOOL!

THERE'RE THE TWO STUDENTS WHO WERE MISSING! NOW THE NUMBERS ADD UP!



OF COURSE THEY PICKED THE FLASHIEST WAY TO ARRIVE!



WELCOME!

DO YOU HAVE A DATE FOR THE DANCE ALREADY, VANILLA?



PICK ME, VANILLA!

HEY! I ASKED HER FIRST!

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! I'M THE BEST DANCER ON THE ISLAND!



LOOK AT THEM! THEY'RE COMPETING TO INVITE HER!

AHEM... HI, PAMELA!



HI, SHEN.

NICE HELICOPTER, DON'T YOU THINK? IT'S ONE OF THE LATEST MODELS!



VANILLA'S GORGEOUS! AND VIC'S SO MYSTEE-ERIOUS!

MYSTERIOUS? HE JUST LOOKS SULLEN TO ME!

UHH... I SUPPOSE YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A DATE... BUT IF NOT...



ADMIT IT, PAM... YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS!

ME, JEALOUS! -TSK!

OOPS!



SORRY, SHEN... DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

-GASP-... NICE HELICOPTER, DON'T YOU THINK?



THE DE VISSEN'S ARRIVAL HAS TORN THROUGH MOUSEFORD ACADEMY LIKE A **CYCLONE!**





IN THE MEANTIME, I'M ENTRUSTING MY TWO JEWELS TO YOU, HEADMASTER! I'M SURE MOUSEFORD ACADEMY WILL BE ABLE TO PREPARE THEM FOR THEIR GREAT FUTURE!

AS WE DO ALL OUR STUDENT'S, MADAM!

WHAT A TOUCHING SCENE!

THE POOR THING...

WHO'S A POOR THING?

I WAS THINKING OF VANILLA! IT MUST'VE BEEN VERY DIFFICULT LIVING ALONGSIDE A MOTHER LIKE THAT! HER DAUGHTER WOULD FEEL OVERWHELMED BY THE COMPARISON!

DEFINITELY! LOOK AT HER! SHE'S THE IMAGE OF SUFFERING!

HA!  
HA!  
HA!

I'VE HEARD PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT A KIND OF "CLUB" HERE AT MOUSEFORD. I THINK IT'S CALLED THE "THEA SISTERS"... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

OH, NO, YOU'RE WRONG! THE THEA SISTERS ARE JUST A GROUP OF FRIENDS.

AND WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THESE... "FRIENDS"?

THEY'RE REALLY WITH IT!

PLUS, THEA STILTON HAS WRITTEN BOOKS ABOUT THEIR ADVENTURES IN EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD!

HMMM... THESE THEA SISTERS ARE VERY POPULAR! TOO POPULAR, FOR MY TASTE!

VANILLA, WHY DON'T YOU FORM A REAL CLUB? I'D BE THE FIRST TO SIGN UP!

ME, TOO!

WELL... I'LL THINK ABOUT IT!



AT THE SAME TIME, AT THE  
OLD CHEESE FACTORY INN...

...NO, NO, AND AGAIN,  
NO, LEO! IT'S TOO  
DANGEROUS! THE ORCA  
COULD ATTACK  
YOU, TOO!

YOUR  
FATHER'S  
RIGHT,  
LEOPOLD!

YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
GO OUT TO  
SEA!

THERE'S SOMETHING *STRANGE*  
OFFSHORE! AND THAT *LOVE ORCA* IS  
THE STRANGEST OF ALL! IT DOESN'T  
LIVE IN A POD LIKE OTHER ORCAS AND  
ATTACKS ALL THE FISHING SHIPS! IT  
ALMOST SEEMS LIKE IT'S LOOKING  
FOR SOMETHING...

AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN  
THINKING ABOUT DINA?  
YOU DIDN'T EVEN SAY  
GOODBYE TO HER  
TODAY!

I...  
I...

**ENOUGH!**

I'M A **FISHERMAN!** THE  
SEA IS MY BUSINESS! MY  
SHIP HAS FACED TEMPESTS  
AND GALES WITHOUT  
SINKING...

...SO AN ORCA'S NOT  
GOING TO STOP ME!



THE NEXT MORNING, A VISIT  
DISTURBS THE TRANQUILITY OF  
THE MARINE BIOLOGY LAB...

FUP

FUP  
FUP

A SMALL DELEGATION OF MOUSEFORD  
PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS HAS COME  
TO WAIT FOR VISSIA DE VISSSEN...



FUP FUP FUP

...AND THERE'S ALSO A TV CREW  
THAT HAS SPECIFICALLY COME WITH  
THEM FROM NEW MOUSE CITY!

EXCELLENT!  
THE TV CAMERAS  
ARE HERE, AS I  
ORDERED...



FUP FUP FUP

I WANT EVERYONE TO  
SEE HOW GENEROUS  
THE GREAT VISSIA DE  
VISSSEN IS!











NOW THAT'S NEWS! TELL US EVERYTHING, PROFESSOR!

THE ORCA THREW ITSELF AGAINST A FISHING BOAT, TEARING THE NETS AND DRAGGING THE BOAT WITH IT!



WAS ANYONE HURT?

THERE'S SOMEONE MISSING! EXCUSE ME, FOLKS... BUT I HAVE TO GO NOW!



WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO, PROFESSOR?

I'M GOING THERE IMMEDIATELY IN THE BATHYSCAPHE! THERE'S A SAILOR IN TROUBLE OUT THERE!

WHY NOT GO IN MY HELICOPTER, INSTEAD?



IN MY HELICOPTER, WE'LL BE THERE IN NO TIME AT ALL! AND WE'LL HAVE A BETTER VIEW OF THE SITUATION FROM ABOVE!

THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! THANK YOU, MS. DE VISSSEN!



PAULINA, VIOLET... YOU STAY HERE AND STAY IN RADIO CONTACT WITH THE FISHING BOAT! THE TRANSMISSION'S VERY GARBLED!

ALL RIGHT! WE'LL KEEP YOU INFORMED!



WHAT OUR FRIENDS DON'T KNOW IS THAT VISSIA DE VISSSEN ISN'T MAKING A DISINTERESTED OFFER!

THE ORCA'S STRUCK AGAIN! LET'S GO AND SEARCH THE AREA! WARN MY SAILORS TO BE READY TO ACT!

YES, MA'AM!



THIS TIME YOU WON'T GET AWAY FROM ME, I KNOW IT!



THE LAB EMPTIES QUICKLY...

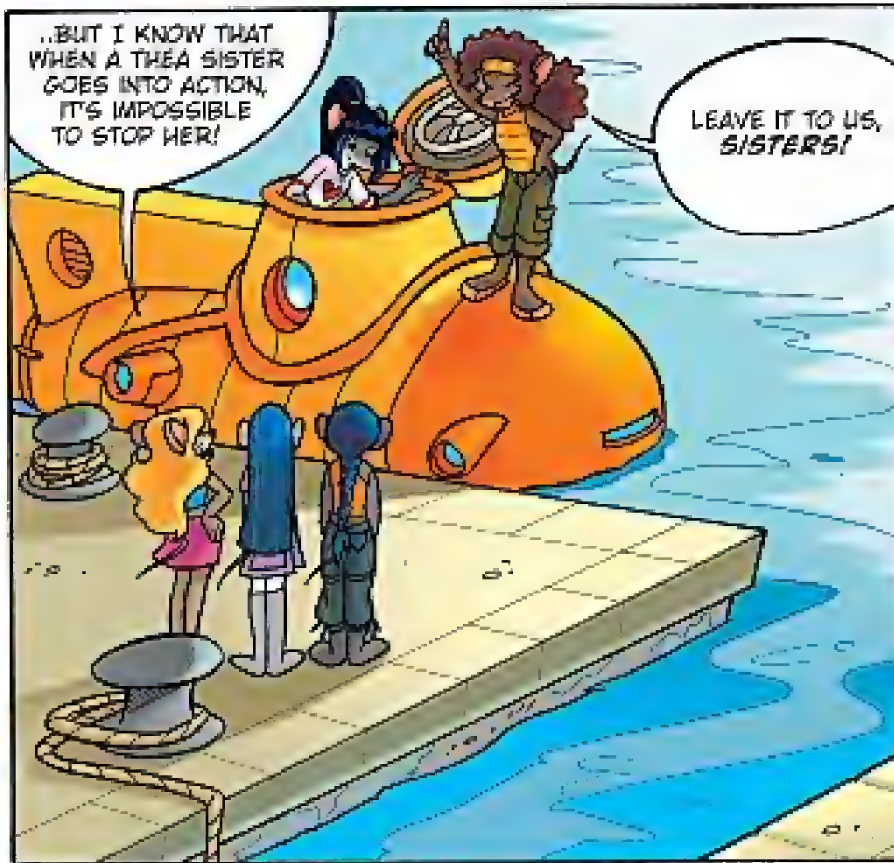
EVERYONE TO THE PORT! WE'VE GOT A **SCOOP!**

LET'S GO BACK TO THE ACADEMY, KIDS!





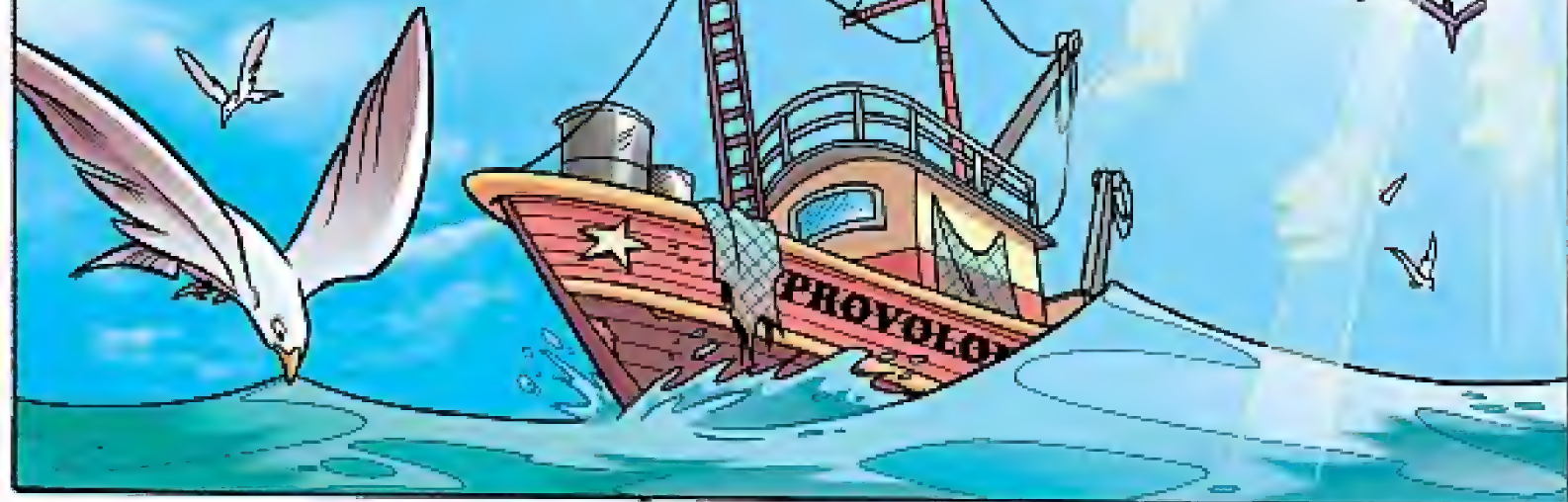






MEANWHILE, THE HELICOPTER HAS REACHED THE FISHING BOAT, THE PROVOLONE II, WHICH IS SLOWLY HEADING BACK TO THE PORT...

FUP FUP FUP



ECHO 140 BRAVO HERE!  
DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE,  
PROVOLONE II?

THANK YOU, FRIENDS!  
EVERYTHING'S OKAY  
HERE! I JUST TOOK  
AN OUT-OF-SEASON  
SWIM!

I WAS THROWN  
OVERBOARD. WHILE I  
WAS TRYING TO SAVE  
THE NETS! AND MY  
SAILORS RUSHED TO  
SOUND THE ALARM!

OWIE!

ASK HIM  
ABOUT THE  
ORCA!

AHEM... WHAT  
HAPPENED TO  
THE ORCA?

IT WENT OFF IN A  
SOUTHEASTERLY  
DIRECTION... AND I  
REALLY HOPE IT  
WON'T COME  
BACK!

FUP FUP FUP

THEN IF YOU DON'T NEED  
OUR HELP, WE'LL TRACK  
DOWN THE ORCA! WE'LL  
WARN YOU IMMEDIATELY  
IF THERE'S ANY  
DANGER! SAFE  
JOURNEY HOME,  
FOLKS!





THE HELICOPTER HAS  
BARELY DISAPPEARED IN  
THE CLOUDS, WHEN...

OVER THERE! I SEE A  
WAKE! IT'S THE ORCA!  
IT'S ATTACKING  
AGAIN!

ALL HANDS ON DECK!  
FULL SPEED AHEAD!

GALLOPING  
BALLONS OF  
GORGONZOLA!

WHAT A WEIRD ORCA!  
I DON'T SEE A  
DORSAL FIN...

??

BLUB-  
BU BLUB

BUT... IT'S NOT  
THE ORCA!

IT'S VAN KRAKEN'S  
BATHYSCAPHE!

JUMPING JUMBO  
PRAWNS!

SPLASH

THE PROFESSOR'S  
BRAVE TO GO OUT  
TO SEA IN THAT  
WRECK WITH THE  
ORCA NEARBY!

I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S  
BRAVE... OR IF HE'S OUT  
OF HIS MIND!

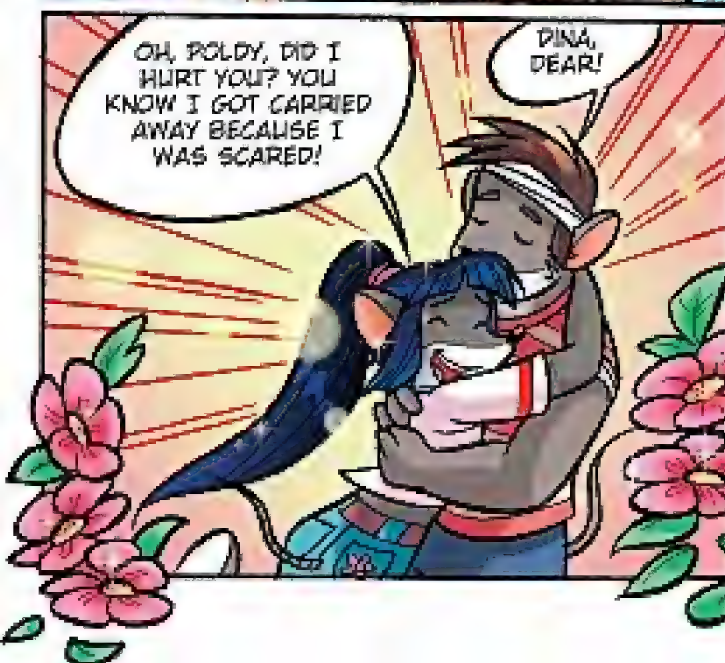
HA! HA!  
HA!

BUT...

LEO!

...SURPRISE!









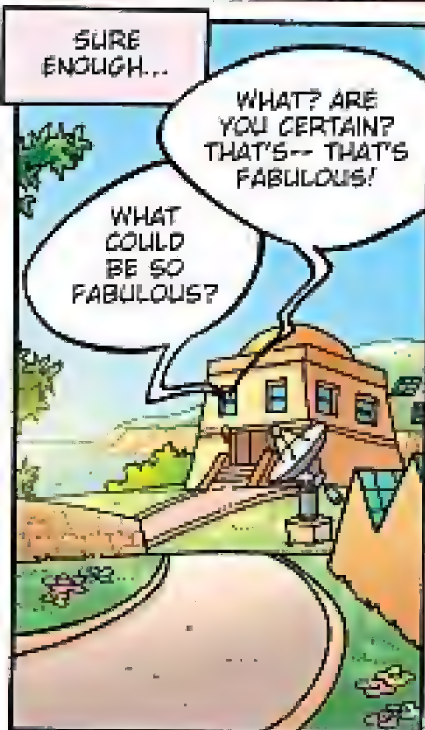
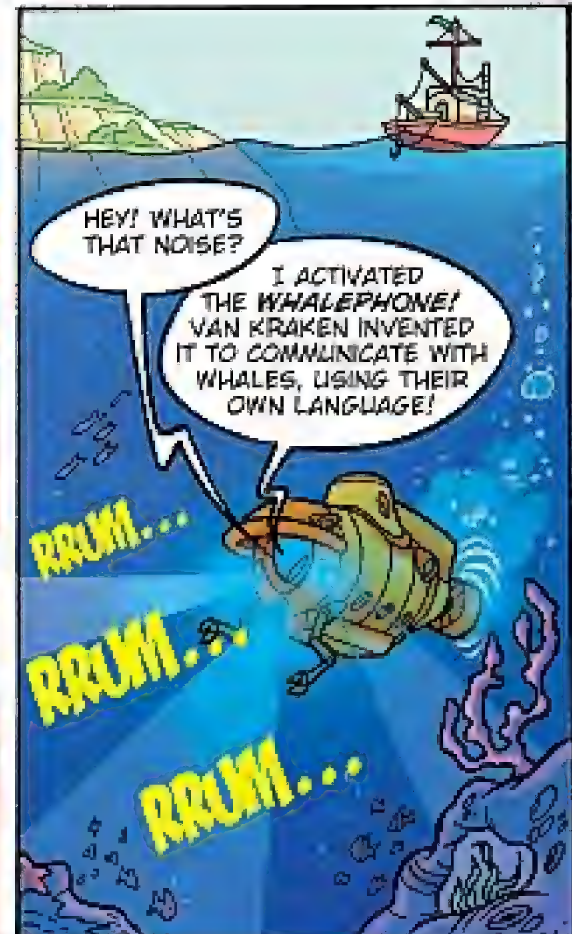
WE WERE JUST GIVING DINA A RIDE! WE'RE LEAVING RIGHT AWAY!



BON VOYAGE, THEN! SEE YOU BACK AT MOUSEFORD, DINA!



THEN TELL ME WHAT IT IS, LOUDLY! THAT NOISE IS LIKE A JACK-HAMMER!





FROM THE HELICOPTER, HOWEVER, THE ORCA SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE!

NOTHING WE CAN DO! THERE'S NOT A TRACE OF THE ORCA...

FUP

FUP  
FUP

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE! IT CAN'T DISAPPEAR LIKE THAT!

HEY!

THAT BEAST'S A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK! BUT I CAN BE EVEN TOUGHER!

IT SOUNDS AS IF YOU HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THE ORCA, MS. DE VISSEN!

HA! HA! HA! WHAT'S POPPED INTO YOUR HEAD, PROFESSOR! I'M JUST WORRIED FOR THE POOR FISHERMEN WHO'RE THREATENED BY THAT MONSTER!

THE ORCA ISN'T A MONSTER! THAT CREATURE IS A *SPLENDID SPECIMEN* AND VERY INTELLIGENT!

-TSK!-  
SO THEY SAY!

FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP

PROFESSOR! THERE'S A CERTAIN PAULINA ON THE RADIO FOR YOU! IT SOUNDS URGENT!

-GASP!-  
AND TO THINK THAT THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A CALM DAY!

I HEAR YOU, PAULINA! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

NICKY AND PAMELA HAVE LOCATED THE ORCA, PROFESSOR!

FINALLY!



EXCELLENT, MY DEAR! BUT NOW GIVE US THE COORDINATES FOR THE ORCA! THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE!

—COOF!—  
WHAT AWFUL MANNERS!

CRAB

I LIKE THIS DE VISSEN WOMAN LESS AND LESS! HER INTEREST IN THE ORCA IS STARTING TO BECOME SUSPICIOUS!

VAN KRAKEN ISN'T WRONG. VISSIA'S SECRET PLAN HAS BEGUN...

GIVE OUR SAILORS THE POSITION OF THE BRUTE AND THEN MAKE UP SOME STORY FOR US TO GO BACK...

CONSIDER IT DONE, MS. DE VISSEN!

AFTER SEVERAL MINUTES...

MS. DE VISSEN,  
WE HAVE A PROBLEM!

FUP FUP FUP

WE'VE GONE TOO FAR AND ARE ABOUT TO USE UP THE FUEL! WE NEED TO RETURN TO THE YACHT IMMEDIATELY!

THAT'S JUST WHAT I DIDN'T WANT! RIGHT WHEN WE WERE ABOUT TO GET TO THE ORCA!

I'M SORRY, MA'AM! BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT WE'D BE GOING OUT FOR SUCH A LONG TRIP!

BETTER THIS WAY! AT LEAST WE'LL LEAVE THAT POOR ANIMAL IN PEACE!

THE HELICOPTER REVERSES ITS COURSE AND ABANDONS THE SEARCH...

FUP FUP FUP



...WHILE VISSIA DE VISSIN'S  
SAILORS SWING INTO ACTION!

WE HAVE THE  
COORDINATES! ALL  
HANDS TO THEIR  
POSTS! BEGIN  
OPERATION  
ORCA!

AT THE SAME TIME, AT THE  
BOTTOM OF THE SEA...

THE SIGNAL FROM  
THE WHALEPHONE ISN'T  
WRONG! YOU'RE VERY  
CLOSE TO THE ORCA  
AND SHOULD SEE  
IT VERY SOON!

LISTEN, NICKY!  
THERE'S ANOTHER  
SOUND!

**BEEEEEP... BEEEEEP...**

**BEEEEEP...**

**TICK TICK TICK**

IT'S LIKE  
AN ECHO...

DO YOU HEAR  
THAT NOISE IN THE  
BACKGROUND, TOO,  
YOU GUYS?

LOUD AND CLEAR! AND  
SOMETHING NEW HAS ALSO  
APPEARED ON THE  
MONITOR...

**BEEEEEP BEEEEEP BEEEEEP**  
**TICK TICK TICK**

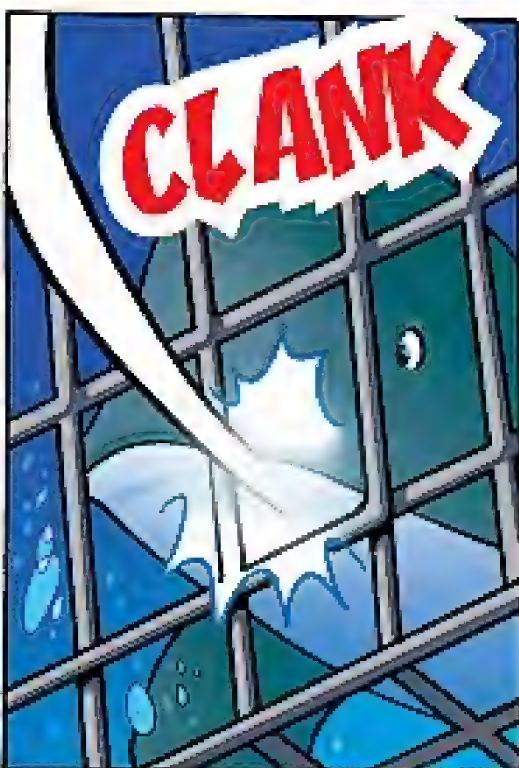
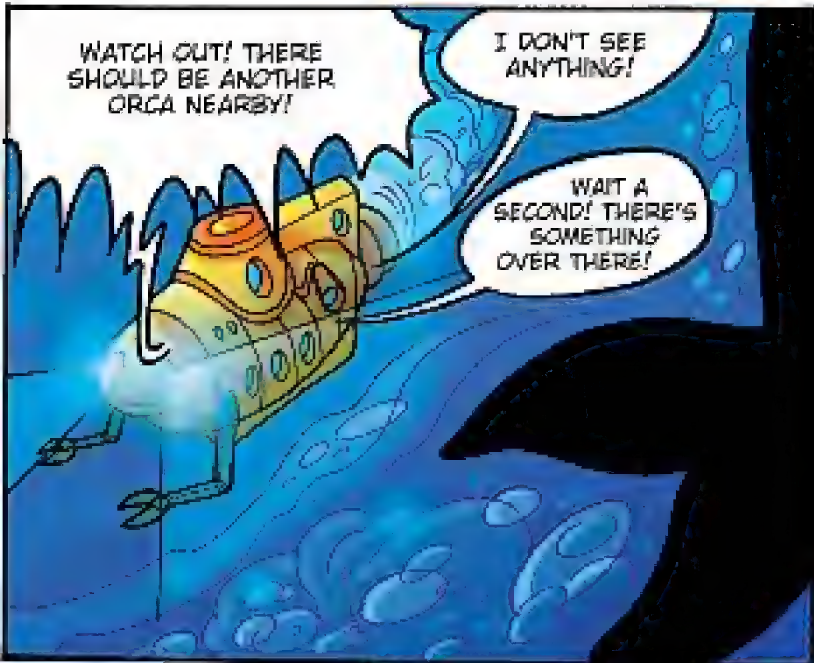
IT SEEMS TO BE  
THE CALL OF  
ANOTHER ORCA!

THEN IT'S NOT  
**SOLITARY**, AS  
EVERYBODY BELIEVED...

THERE  
IT IS!

WE SEE  
IT, GUYS!  
IT'S RIGHT  
IN FRONT  
OF US!









BUT WHO?  
WHO  
CAUGHT IT?



A FISHING BOAT'S DRAGGING THE CAGE WITH  
THE ORCA INSIDE IT! LET'S FOLLOW IT AND  
SEE IF WE CAN FIND OUT  
WHERE IT'S  
GOING!

BE CAREFUL!  
THAT COULD BE  
**DANGEROUS!**



MEANWHILE, VISSIA'S HELICOPTER  
HAS RETURNED TO HER YACHT!



WELCOME  
ABOARD, MS.  
DE VISSEN!

THANK YOU,  
CAPTAIN RATCHET!



UHM... I DON'T WANT TO TAKE  
ADVANTAGE OF YOUR HOSPITALITY,  
MA'AM! IF SOMEONE COULD  
TAKE ME BACK  
TO LAND, I...

YOU  
MUST BE  
JOKING? YOU'RE  
NOT GOING TO  
WANT TO LEAVE  
JUST NOW!



ALL YOUR COLLEAGUES WILL BE ARRIVING  
IN JUST A FEW MINUTES! YOU'VE ALL BEEN  
INVITED TO DINNER HERE THIS EVENING!

UHM... I DIDN'T  
KNOW THAT!

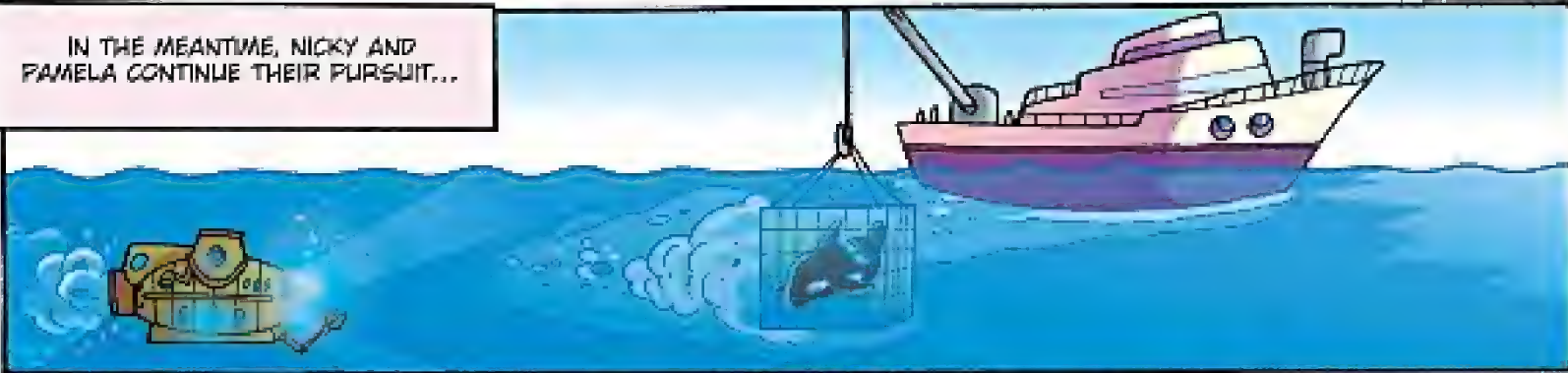


CAPTAIN, I'LL ENTRUST YOU  
WITH OUR GUEST! SHOW HIM THE  
EQUIPMENT ONBOARD! I'M SURE  
THE PROFESSOR WILL FIND  
IT INTERESTING!



VAN KRAKEN WILL STAY  
HERE... AT LEAST UNTIL  
MY ORCA'S STASHED  
AWAY!

IN THE MEANTIME, NICKY AND  
PAMELA CONTINUE THEIR PURSUIT...



WHERE'RE THEY  
HEADING? WE'VE GONE  
QUITE A BIT AWAY FROM  
WHALE ISLAND!



THEY'RE  
HEADED  
NORTHWEST!



TOWARDS WINDY  
ISLAND...

WHY EVER  
THERE? IT'S AN  
UNINHABITED  
ISLAND!



NOT AT ALL! THAT'S VISSIA DE  
VISSEN'S PRIVATE ISLAND!

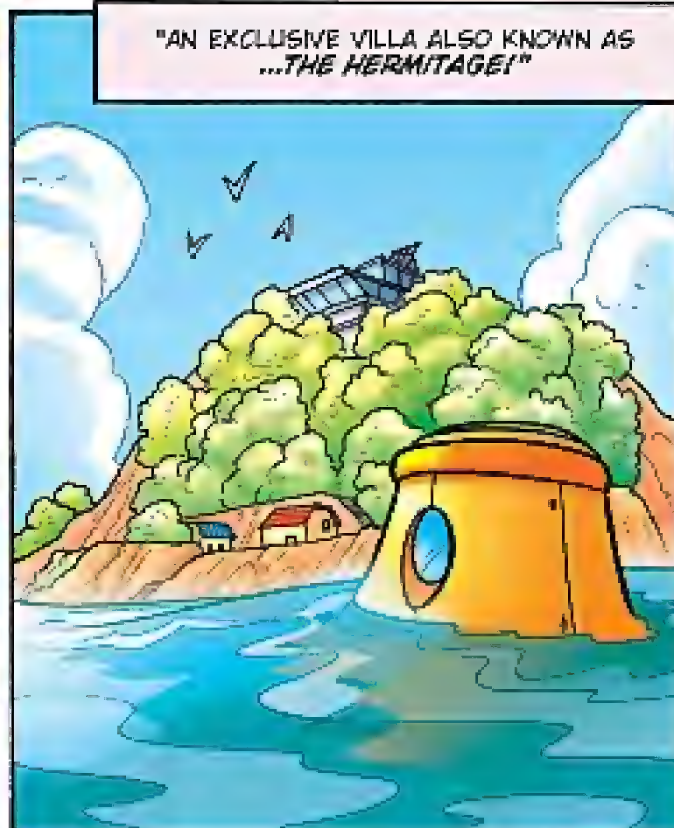
SAY WHAT?!



IT WAS IN  
THE JULY ISSUE  
OF VANITY! SHE  
BOUGHT THE  
ISLAND TO  
TRANSFORM IT  
INTO HER  
**RESIDENCE!**

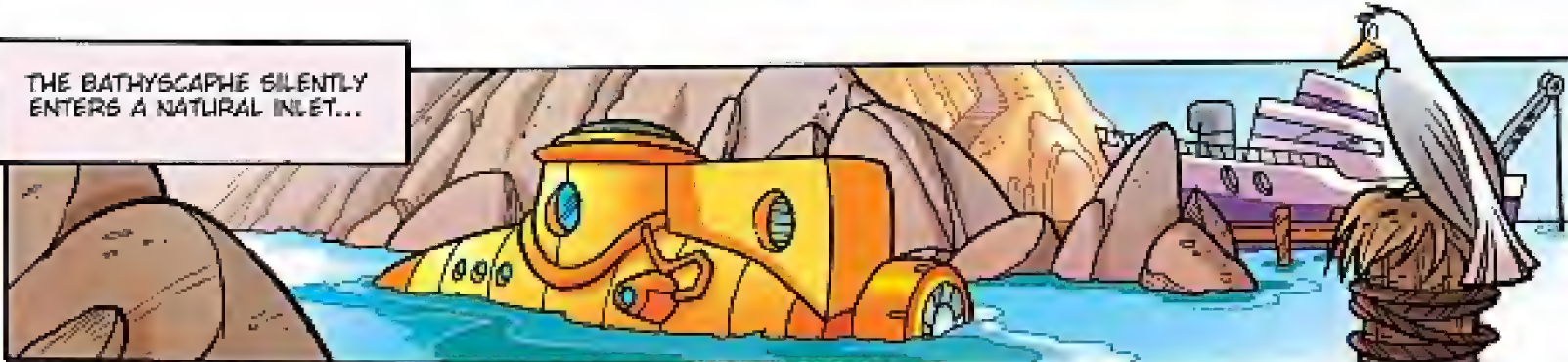


"AN EXCLUSIVE VILLA ALSO KNOWN AS  
...THE HERMITAGE!"

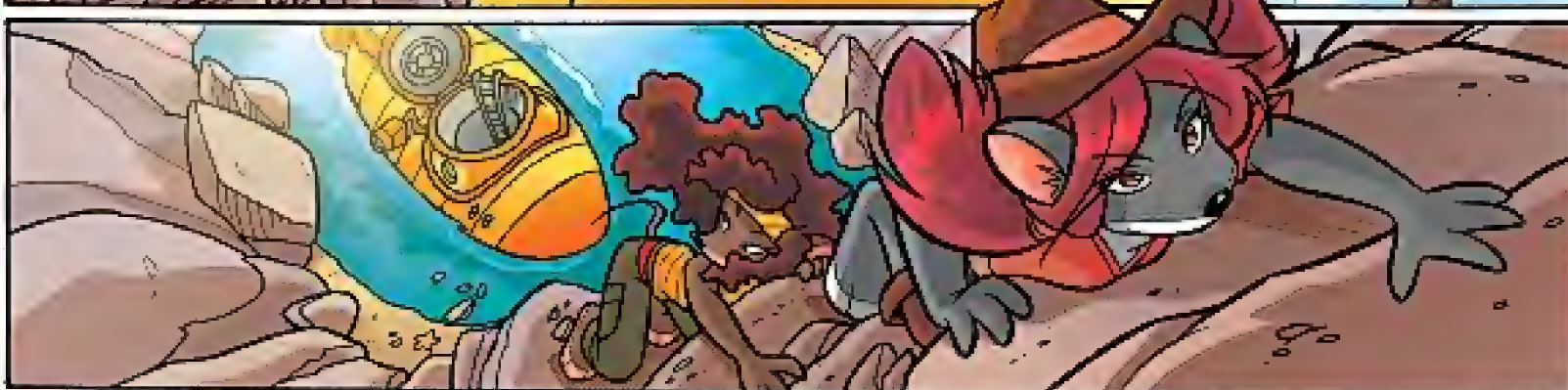
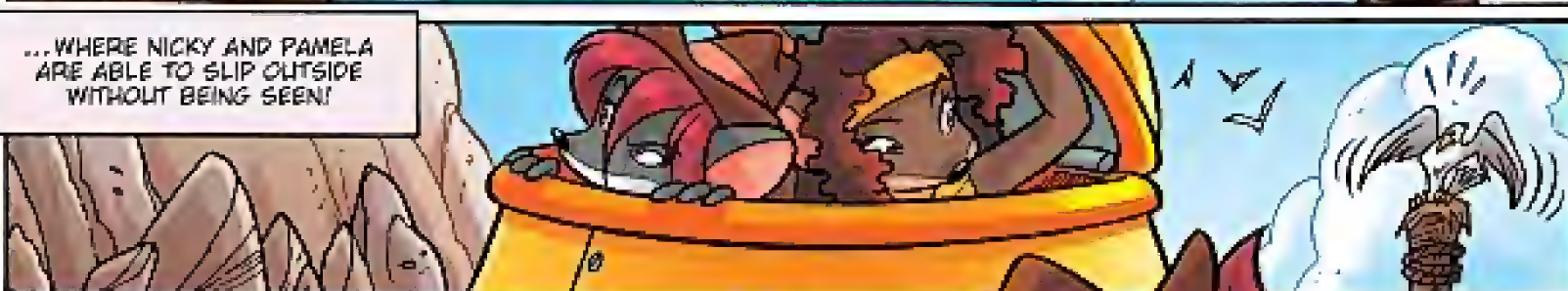




THE BATHYSCAPHE SILENTLY  
ENTERS A NATURAL INLET...



...WHERE NICKY AND PAMELA  
ARE ABLE TO SLIP OUTSIDE  
WITHOUT BEING SEEN!



YOU FINALLY CAUGHT IT!  
MS. DE VISSEN PROMISED  
DOUBLE PAY FOR  
EVERYONE!

**ENOUGH!**  
IT'S TOO SOON  
TO CELEBRATE!

HURRAY!



THE ORCA'S IN THE CAGE!  
WHAT'RE YOU AFRAID OF,  
PROFESSOR?

IT WON'T BE EASY TO  
KEEP TWO ORCAS OF  
THAT SIZE TOGETHER IN  
ONE AQUARIUM!

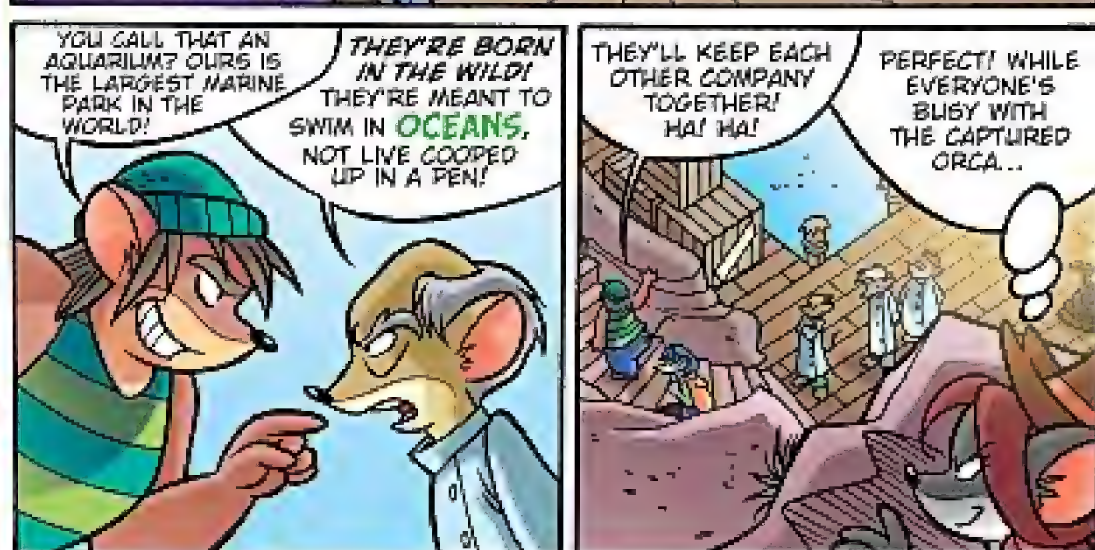


YOU CALL THAT AN  
AQUARIUM? OURS IS  
THE LARGEST MARINE  
PARK IN THE  
WORLD!

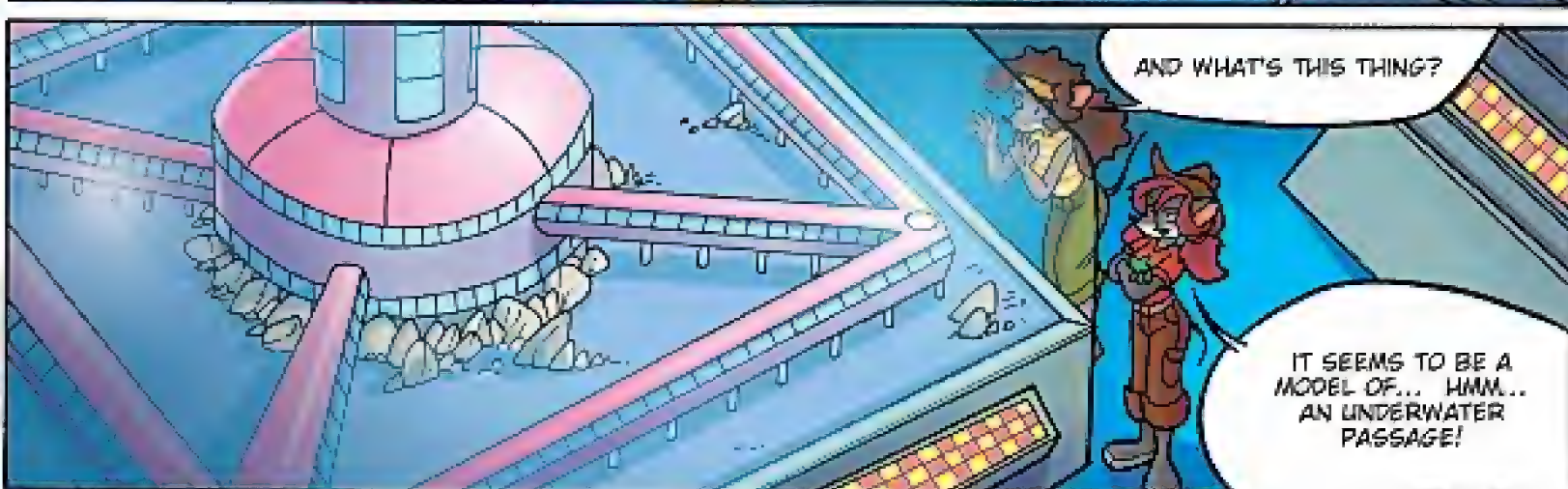
THEY'RE BORN  
IN THE WILD!  
THEY'RE MEANT TO  
SWIM IN OCEANS,  
NOT LIVE COOPED  
UP IN A PEN!

THEY'LL KEEP EACH  
OTHER COMPANY  
TOGETHER!  
HA! HA!

PERFECT! WHILE  
EVERYONE'S  
BUSY WITH  
THE CAPTURED  
ORCA...







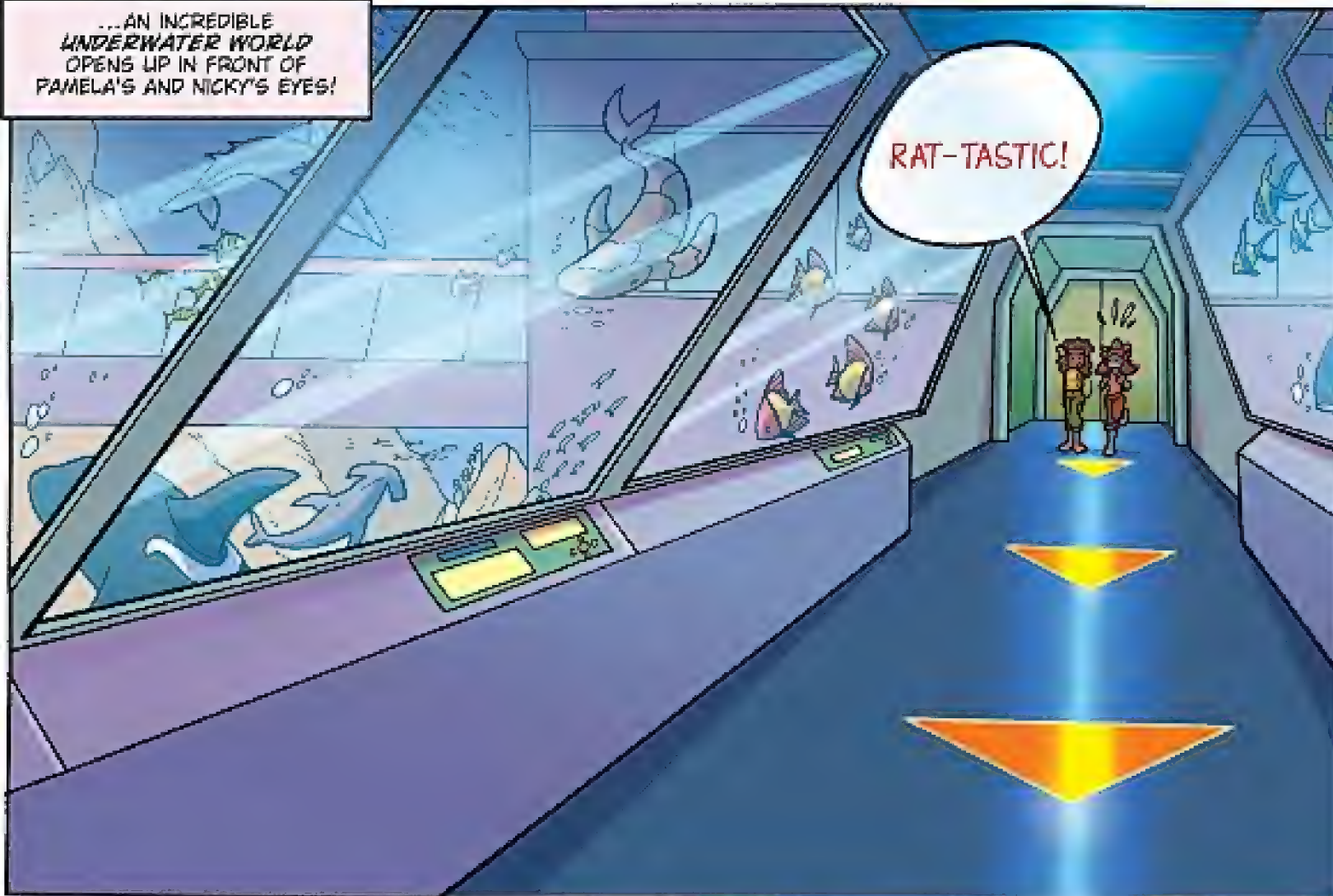




A HATCH OPENS UP AUTOMATICALLY AND...



...AN INCREDIBLE UNDERWATER WORLD OPENS UP IN FRONT OF PAMELA'S AND NICKY'S EYES!



\* THE TWO WINGS OF THE ANGEL SHARK ARE ACTUALLY ITS PECTORAL FINS. IT LIVES ALONG THE COASTS IN TEMPERATE WATERS. DURING THE DAY IT SPENDS ITS TIME HIDDEN UNDER THE SAND, LEAVING ONLY ITS EYES SHOWING.





\*A RELATIVE OF SHARKS, THE MANTA RAY IS THE LARGEST RAY IN THE WORLD. ITS "WING" SPAN CAN BE AS LARGE AS 22 FEET. IT LIVES IN TROPICAL WATERS, IN THE PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS AND IN THE RED SEA. IT'S HARMLESS TO HUMANS AND FEEDS ON PLANKTON.



FINALLY THAT DE VISSSEN WOMAN HAS MANAGED TO FULFILL HER CRAZY WHIM, AND THE OTHER ORCA'S TRAPPED IN THE AQUARIUM...

EVER SINCE WE CAPTURED HER PARTNER, SHE NEVER STOPPED SEARCHING FOR HIM!

THERE'S A STRONG BOND BETWEEN ORCAS. THEIR PODS LOOK LIKE A FAMILY! THERE'S A MALE, A FEMALE, THEIR CALVES AND THEIR ELDERLY...

WHAT COUNTS IS THAT STARTING TODAY, DE VISSSEN'S MARINE PARK HAS TWO MORE VALUABLE SPECIMENS!

WHOOSH!

THAT SOLVES THE **MYSTERY** OF THE LONE ORCA. SHE NEVER STOPPED FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF HER PARTNER!

EVERY SHIP LOOKED LIKE THE ONE THAT TOOK HIM AWAY... AND THAT'S WHY SHE ATTACKED EVERY VESSEL.

POOR THING... WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH SHE MUST HAVE SUFFERED WITHOUT HIM!

WE HAVE TO OPEN THE CAGES AND FREE THE IMPRISONED ANIMALS! EVERYONE MUST KNOW ABOUT THE MISDEEDS OF VISSIA DE VISSSEN AND...

SHHH! WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO A DARN THING IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF HERE FIRST!

~AMPH!~

THE COAST IS CLEAR!

AT THE SAME TIME, ALSO AT MOUSEFORD, THERE'S SOMEONE FACING BIG RISKS...

PROFESSOR SPARKLE! BARTHOL-MEOWOOOOO!

RATILDA, NO! NOT THIS YEAR, TOO!



UHM... I WAS REALLY SURE THAT YOU WENT OVER HERE...

RATILDA IS NICE...

...BUT BEING HER DATE LAST YEAR WAS TOO **TIRING!**

ONLY POOR WONDERRAT HAD IT WORSE! MIDGE TRAMPLED HIS TWO PAWS TO SMITHEREENS!

A POINT IN MY FAVOR! QUICK, HERE'S A WAY OUT!

**SLAM**

PROFESSOR SPARKLE! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

~GASPI~...  
**MIDGE!**

SAY NO MORE! I UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING!

I-- ER... WOULD LIKE-- I'M HERE BECAUSE...

I'D BE VERY HAPPY TO BE YOUR DATE AT THE ACADEMY'S DANCE, BARTHOL-OMEW!

OH, NO!



ONBOARD HER YACHT,  
VISSIA IS SAVORING  
HER TRIUMPH...

HOW ARE MY  
ORCAS DOING,  
CAPTAIN?

MARVELOUSLY,  
MS. DE VISSEN!

GOOD! THEN GET READY TO  
LEAVE FOR THE ANTARCTIC  
RATTIC OCEAN! A RARE  
WHITE DOLPHIN'S  
JUST BEEN SPOTTED...

AND NEEDLESS  
TO SAY,  
I WANT IT!

PAMELA AND NICKY HAVE  
RETURNED TO THE MARINE  
BIOLOGY LAB TO TELL THE  
OTHERS EVERYTHING...

WHAT AN  
**INCREDIBLE**  
STORY!

I'LL ALERT THE  
BLUE MICE\* RIGHT  
AWAY!

THAT'S NOT  
ENOUGH! WE HAVE  
TO **FREE** THOSE POOR  
CREATURES **IMMEDIATELY!**  
ANY WAY WE CAN!

\*BLUE MICE IS THE  
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
ORGANIZATION THAT NICKY AND  
PALLINA BELONG TO.

WHAT? YOU DON'T WANT  
TO RETURN TO WINDY  
ISLAND? IT'S  
TOO RISKY!

ONE WAY  
WOULD BE...

HUH? ARE YOU  
SERIOUS?

I'VE READ EVERYTHING ABOUT  
VISSIA DE VISSEN! SHE WAS  
MY IDOL! I BELIEVED SHE  
WAS SOMEONE **SPECIAL**  
AND INSTEAD...

...SHE'S JUST  
A **GREEDY,**  
**UNSCRUPULOUS**  
**LIAR!**



BUT... HAVING READ SO MUCH ABOUT HER WON'T HAVE BEEN A WASTE! NOW I KNOW HOW TO UNMASK HER!



TELL US EVERYTHING, COLETTE!



VISSIA DE VISSIN IS HAVING A PARTY ON HER YACHT TONIGHT! THERE'RE SURE TO BE JOURNALISTS AND TV CAMERAS THERE...

\*...AND AT THE RIGHT TIME, THERE WILL ALSO BE

**FIVE EXTRA GUESTS!"**

A SIMPLY ENCHANTING YACHT!

WHAT STYLE!  
WHAT ELEGANCE!

SO RICH AND  
SO GENEROUS!

PULL ALONGSIDE, PAMELA, AND... YOU GUYS, I RECOMMEND YOU... SMILE!





CAPTAIN, A MOTORBOAT IS ASKING PERMISSION TO COME ALONGSIDE!

THESE'LL BE MORE GUESTS...



BUT THOSE ARE THE **THEA SISTERS!** WHO INVITED THEM?



HOW DARE THEY? THIS IS AN EXCLUSIVE PARTY! GET AWAY FROM HERE!



RELAX, VANILLA! WHERE'S THE FAMOUS DE VISSSEN HOSPITALITY GONE TO?

?!



COME THIS WAY! IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE FOR A SMALL TOUR AROUND OUR "LITTLE BOAT"...

-GASP!-...ER ...OH!...WE, REALLY...



COLLETTE? NICKY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

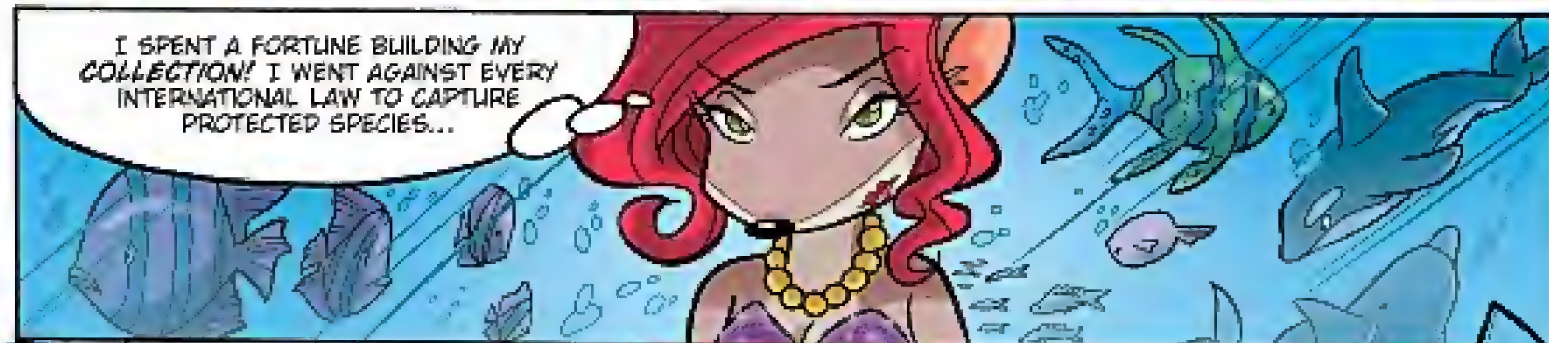
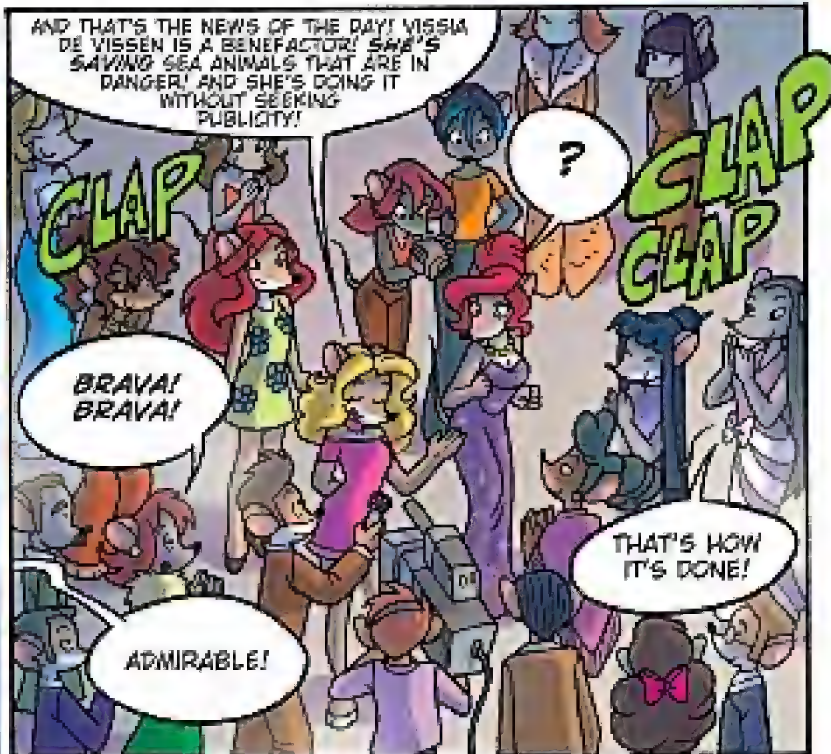
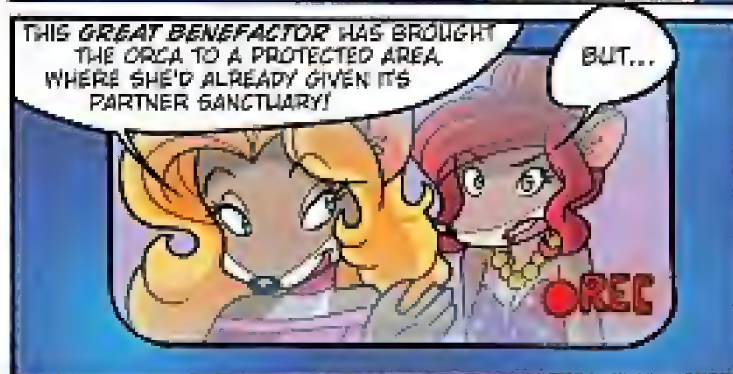
DID YOU KIDS WANT SOMETHING?

WE'RE STUDYING JOURNALISM, MS. DE VISSSEN! WE DON'T WANT TO MISS A **SCOOP** OF ANY KIND!



DID SOMEONE SAY, "SCOOP"? QUICK, START BACK AT THE BEGINNING!











THE GUEST OF HONOR, VISSIA DE VISSIN, SHINES BY HER ABSENCE...

WHO'LL START THE DANCING THIS YEAR?

THE HEADMASTER WON'T DANCE WITH MS. DE VISSIN, BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T COME...

...BUT THE DANCING CERTAINLY WON'T STOP FOR THAT! LOOK!

CLAP

HURRAY!

LONG LIVE MOUSEFORD!

CLAP

CLAP

THE MUSIC HAS BEGUN AND THE DANCERS ARE TAKING THE FLOOR, WHERE DINA AND LEOPOLD HAVE THE PLACE OF HONOR...

VANILLA AND COLETTE ARE COMPETING FOR THE CROWN OF THE MOST ELEGANT AT THE PARTY!

...AND THEN THERE ARE THE... ABSENT-MINDED...

NICKY!  
-GASP!  
PUFF! PANT!  
WOULD YOU BE MY PARTNER?

...AND, FINALLY, THE INDECISIVE, WHO ARE HURRYING TO FORM THE LAST COUPLES!

YOU FORGOT ABOUT THE PARTY, RIGHT, PROFESSOR?

TAKE YOUR COURAGE IN YOUR TWO PAWS, SHEN! ASK FAMELA TO DANCE! BE BRAVE! TAKE A DEEP BREATH! ONE... TWO AND...



PAMELA!

=GULP!=  
TOO LATE!

WOULD YOU DO  
ME THE HONOR OF  
THIS DANCE?

=GASP!... OOPS!...  
UHM...

OUCH!

ONLY WHEN  
I'M CAUGHT  
OFF-GUARD!

HA! HA! HA! ARE YOUR  
ANSWERS ALWAYS SO  
...MYSTERIOUS?

VIC SEEMS ARROGANT, BUT  
MAYBE HE'S NICER THAN HE  
WANTS TO SEEM!

DID YOU SEE  
WHO'S DANCING  
WITH VIC?

THE LUCK OF  
THE THEA SISTERS!

THEY SAY SOMETHING  
ODD ABOUT YOU THEA  
SISTERS...

SOMETHING ODD?  
HOW SO?

OH, MAYBE IT'S JUST GOSSIP...  
BUT SOMEONE SAID THAT INSTEAD  
OF STUDYING, YOU PREFER  
TO TOUR AROUND  
THE WORLD!

WHAT  
RUBBISH!

AND SOME PEOPLE ALSO SAY  
YOU'RE THE HEADMASTER'S  
PETS! ISN'T THAT ALSO TRUE?

HEY! IF THERE'S A  
MAMA'S BOY HERE, IT'S  
CLEARLY YOU!



YOU'D BETTER TAKE CARE IF YOU CHALLENGE MY MOTHER... BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE AT THE PARTY, YOU HAVE TO DANCE!

WHEN YOU STEP ON THE TOES OF SOMEONE POWERFUL, YOU'D BETTER BE READY TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES!

WHATEVER THE REPLY IS, THAT LOOK ON VANILLA'S FACE PROMISES NOTHING GOOD FOR THE FUTURE!

IS THAT A WARNING OR A THREAT?!

**BRAVO!**

**CRUNCH**

**CLAP CLAP**

**THEA'S ARRIVED!**

GIRLS!

YOU'RE FINALLY HERE!

?

WE HAVE A HEAP OF NEWS TO TELL YOU!

**THEA!**

COLETTE! NICKY! PAMELA! HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE!

AN **INCREDIBLE** THING HAPPENED, THEA!

RIGHT HERE! TWO STEPS AWAY FROM WHALE ISLAND!

NOW THE PARTY IS REALLY COMPLETE!

I PROMISED YOU I'D MAKE IT!

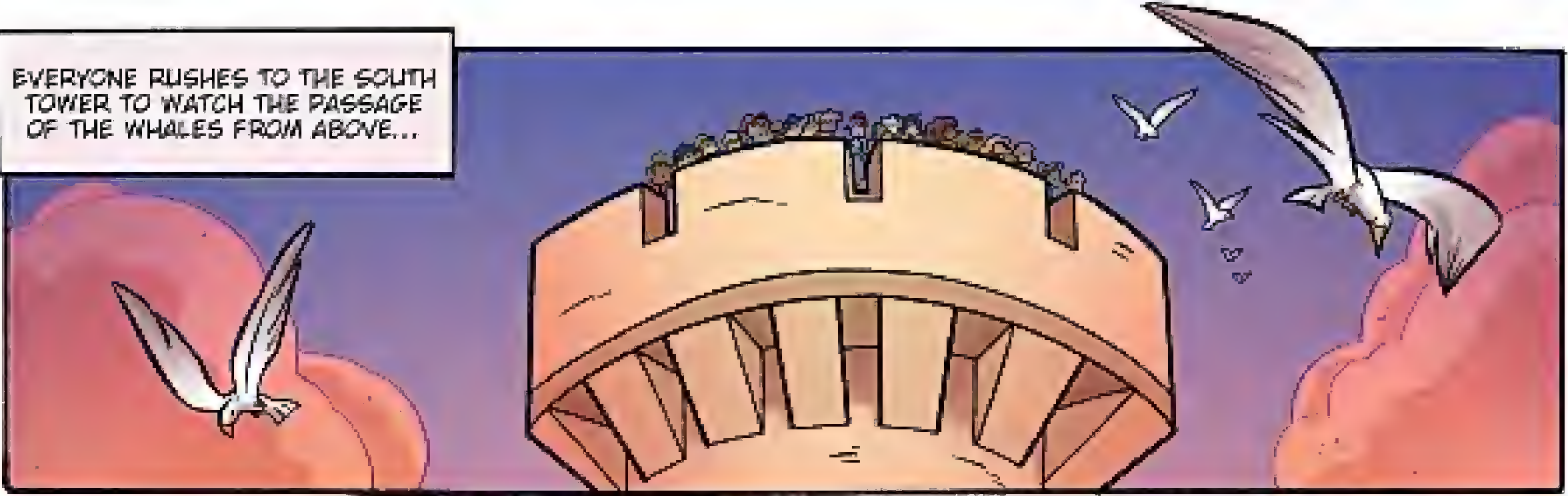
IT'S THEA STILTON, SISTER OF GERONIMO STILTON! THE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT TO THE RODENT'S GAZETTE!







EVERYONE RUSHES TO THE SOUTH  
TOWER TO WATCH THE PASSAGE  
OF THE WHALES FROM ABOVE...



OVER THERE!  
THEY'RE SPOLTING!

THE WHALES HAVE ARRIVED AND THE  
DE VISSER YACHT IS LEAVING! TOO  
BAD! I WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE  
INTERVIEWED HER...

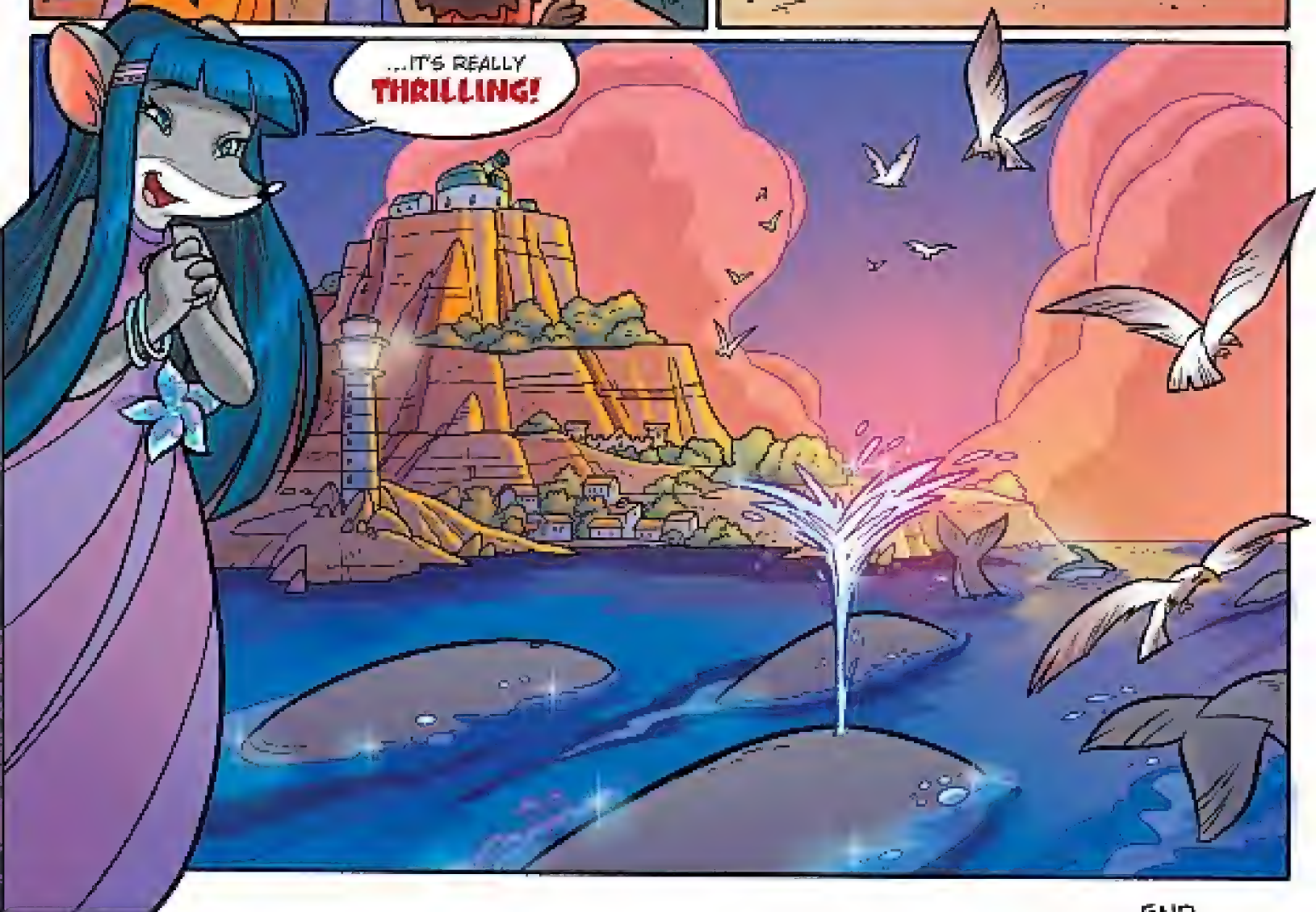


THIS IS MY FAVORITE TIME  
HERE AT MOUSEFORD!

OH, YES...



...IT'S REALLY  
**THRILLING!**



END



# Watch Out For PAPERCUTZ™



**W**elcome to Whale Island! Er, no, no I meant, welcome to Freshman Orientation at Mouseford Academy! Wait, that's not it, either! Oh, I remember now... welcome to the premiere THEA STILTON graphic novel from Papercutz, the furry folks dedicated to publishing great graphic novels for all ages! I'm Salicrup, *Jim Salicrup*, the Editor-in-Chief of the Rodent's Gazette. Oops! That's not right either! Geronimo Stilton is the Editor-in-Chief of the Rodent's Gazette! I'm the Editor-in-Chief of Papercutz!

I apologize for all the confusion, but things have been a little crazy around here lately. Ever since we announced that we would also be publishing THEA STILTON graphic novels, Thea's many fans have been eagerly awaiting her solo-graphic novel debut. But, you see, that's where the confusion comes in! Thea's fans, after watching her in action with her brother Geronimo Stilton in his graphic novel series, naturally assumed that a new graphic novel series entitled THEA STILTON would star the world-famous Special Correspondent for the Rodent's Gazette in her very own adventures. Well, while Thea does appear in THEA STILTON, the real stars are the Thea Sisters. And no, they're not Thea's sisters, either! They're five students at Mouseford Academy who want to become real live journalists, just like their idol, Thea Stilton! So, with Thea's blessing and support, Colette, Violet, Pamela, Nicky, and Paulina have formed a sorority called "The Thea Sisters," named after you-know-who!

→Whew!→ Now that we we've cleared all that up (I hope), let's take a sneak peek, on the following pages, at what's coming up in GERONIMO STILTON #13 "The Fastest Train in the West," which will soon be coming down the tracks! And don't forget to look out for THEA STILTON #2 "The Revenge of the Lizard Club," also slithering its way to you soon! And if that's not enough Stilton family fun for you, don't forget to visit [www.geronimostilton.com](http://www.geronimostilton.com) for even more fun!

Class dismissed!

*Jim*

## Stay in Touch!

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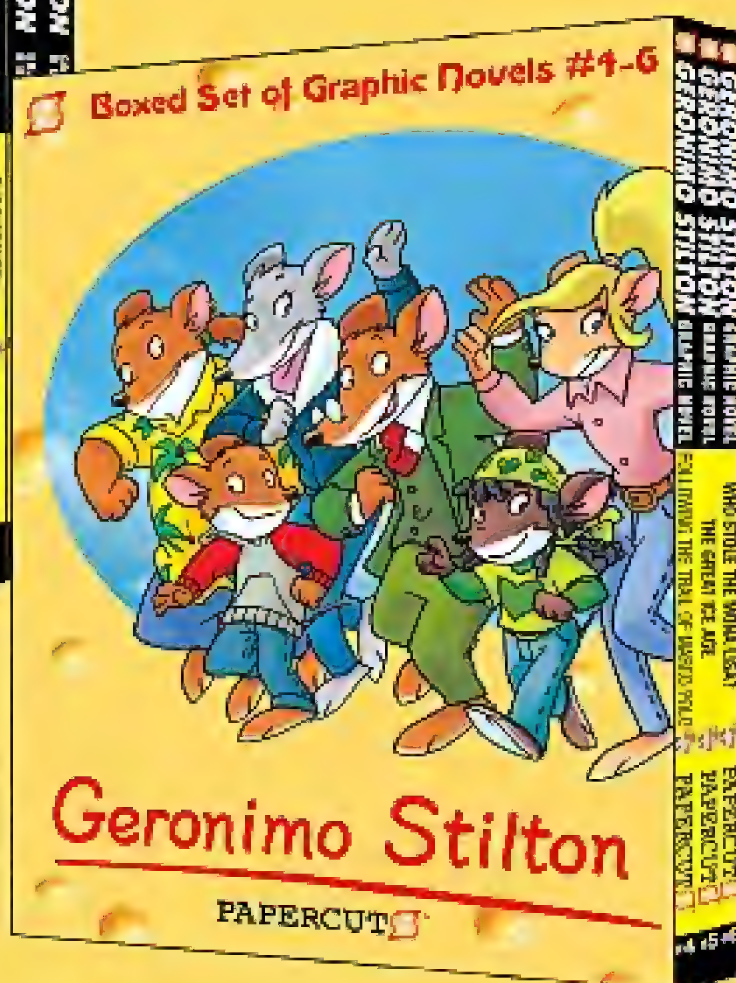


# Geronimo Stilton boxed sets!

## Three Graphic Novels collected in each box!



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Available at booksellers everywhere.



IN THE MEANTIME, TRAP AND THEA HAD REACHED THE CONSTRUCTION SITE FOR THE RAIL LINE THAT WAS HEADING EASTWARDS.



BUT IF WE LEAVE THE SPEEDRAT HERE, HOW WILL WE GET IT BACK? IT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT!

EASY, WE'LL BRING IT WITH US!



THE WORK SITE MOVES WITH THE WORKERS, SO THE CRATES WON'T REMAIN HERE.

UH, NO?



TO BE OPENED AT THE INAUGURATION.

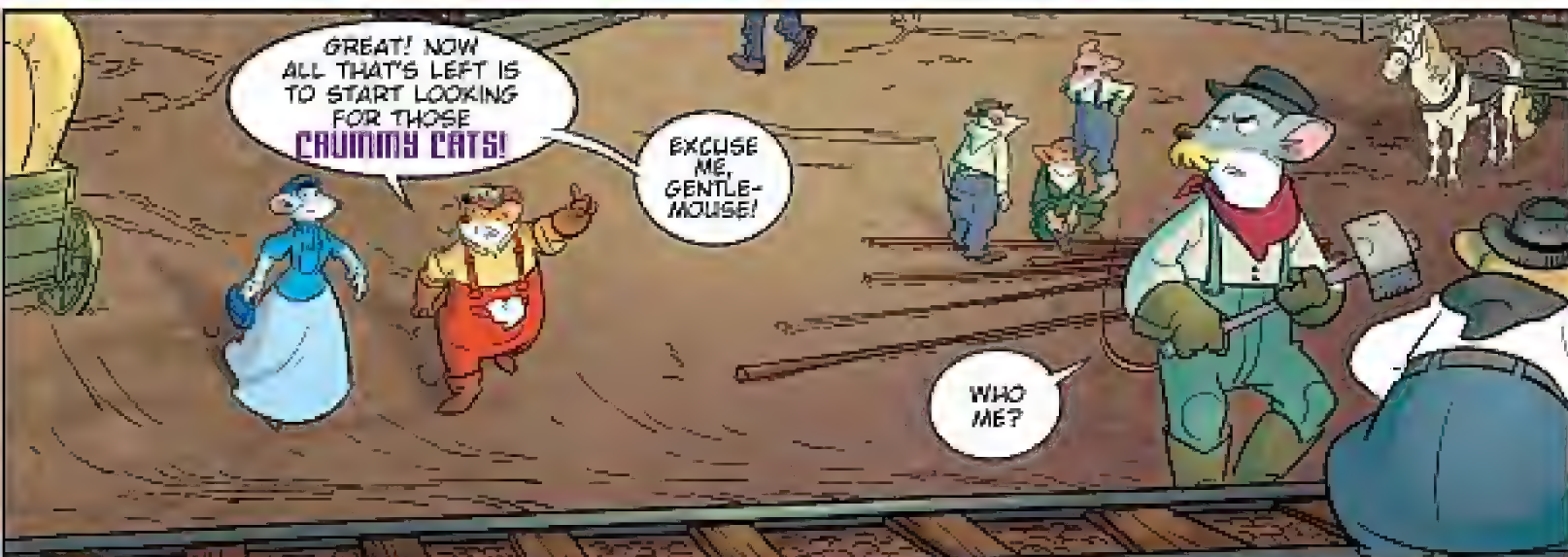
THEY'LL COME WITH US UNTIL THE WORK IS FINISHED. IT'S ENOUGH TO PROVIDE EXACT INFORMATION. THIS CRATE WILL BE ONE OF THE MANY THAT ARE FOR THE INAUGURATION!



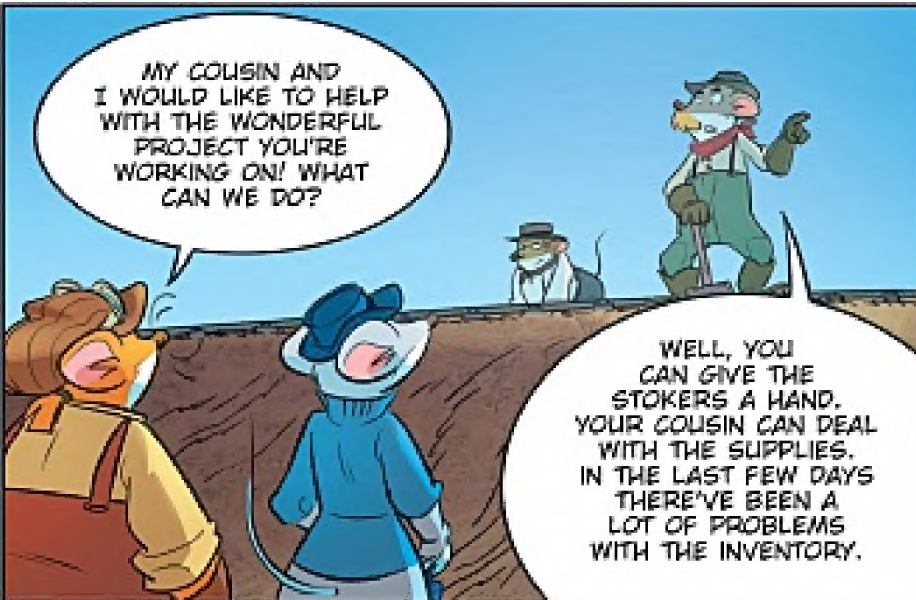
GREAT! NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO START LOOKING FOR THOSE **CRIMMY CATS!**

EXCUSE ME, GENTLE-  
MOUSE!

WHO ME?







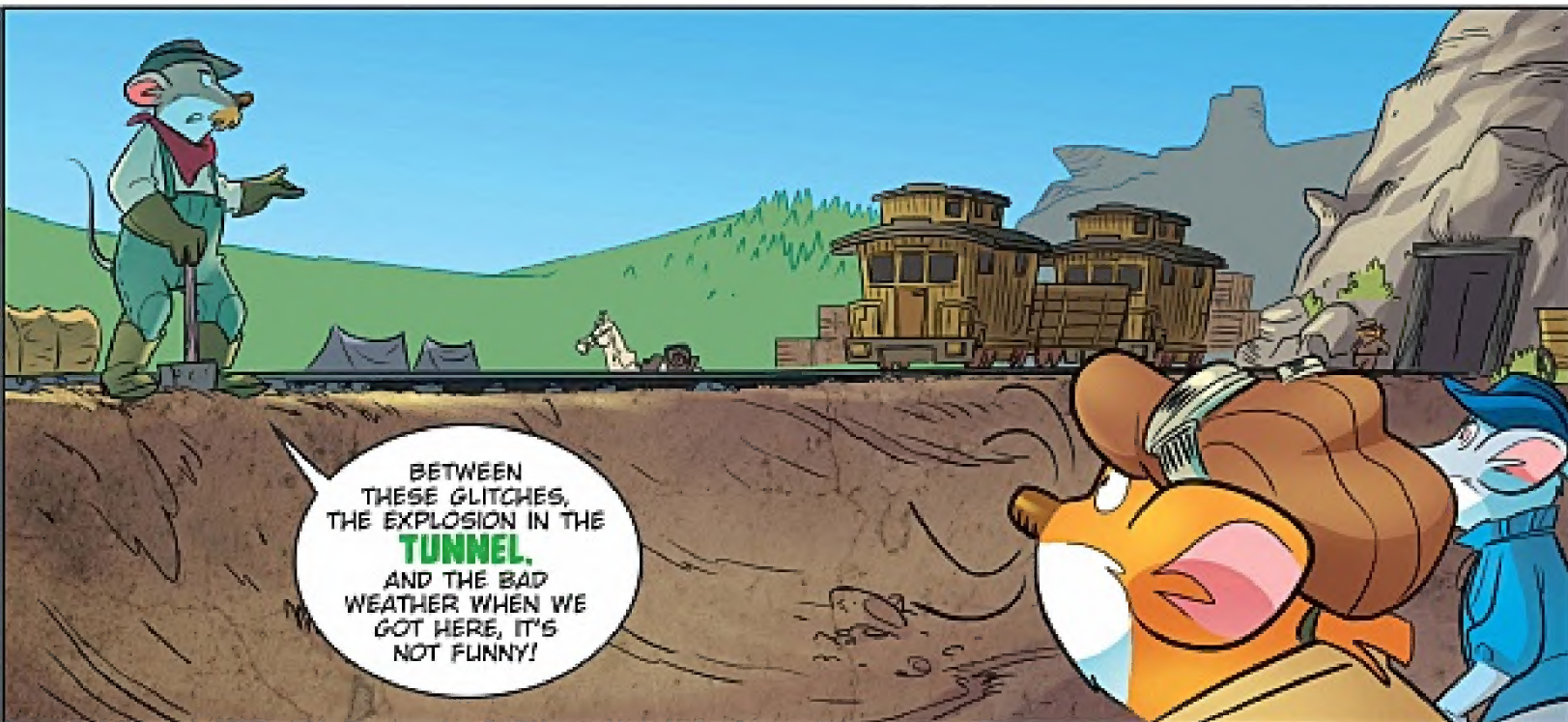
MY COUSIN AND I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH THE WONDERFUL PROJECT YOU'RE WORKING ON! WHAT CAN WE DO?

WELL, YOU CAN GIVE THE STOKERS A HAND. YOUR COUSIN CAN DEAL WITH THE SUPPLIES. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THERE'VE BEEN A LOT OF PROBLEMS WITH THE INVENTORY.



WHAT KIND OF PROBLEMS?

THE CRATES SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN SCRAMBLED. SOMETIMES IT TAKES A WHOLE DAY TO FIND THE PIECES WE NEED.



BETWEEN THESE GLITCHES, THE EXPLOSION IN THE **TUNNEL**, AND THE BAD WEATHER WHEN WE GOT HERE, IT'S NOT FUNNY!



OKAY! WE'LL START LOOKING HERE!

\*LOOKING HERE\* FOR WHAT?

NO, MY COUSIN MEANT WE'D START LOOKING FOR WORK HERE!

AH!



WE'RE SEEING THE PAW PRINTS OF THE PIRATE CATS HERE!

RIGHT! THEY MUST BE THE ONE WHO'VE CREATED THE CONFUSION WITH THE SUPPLIES.



I WONDER HOW GERONIMO'S FARING?









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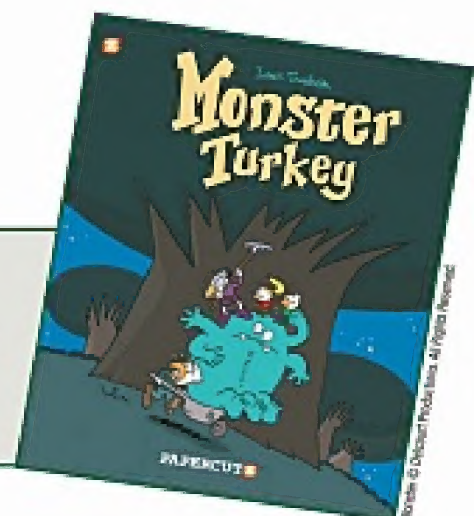
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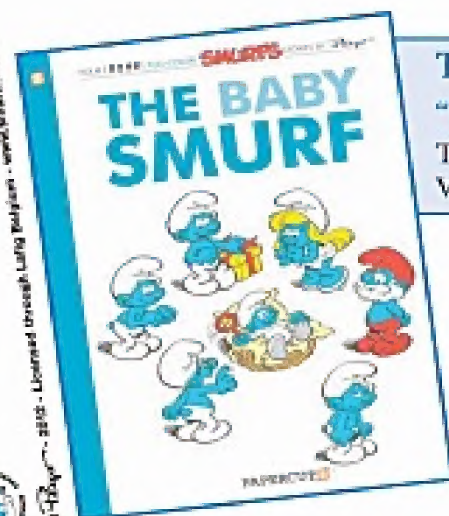
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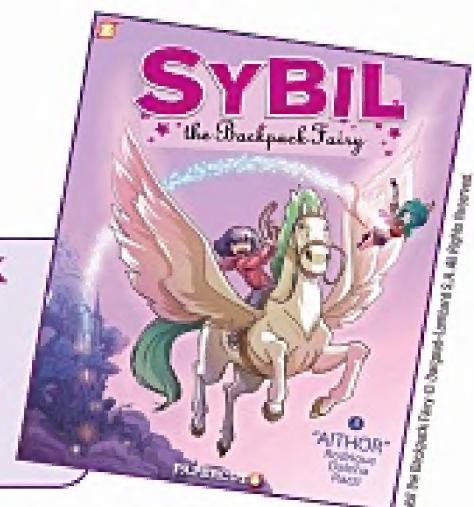
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